

Conflict in north Iraq hampers relief efforts

ERBIL (AFP) — Thousands of Turkish Kurd refugees are caught in the middle of an inter-Kurd conflict which is hampering the work of U.N. and other aid organisations.

In a sign of increasing desperation, three U.N. officials and 10 workers from non-governmental organisations were held hostage in the U.N.-run Atrush camp in northern Iraq last week.

They were meant to act as shields against the Iraqi Kurds who want to search the camp, believing it is being used to hide weapons for the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

All the hostages were eventually freed unharmed after negotiations between the head of the U.N. relief coordination unit, Stafford Clarry, and camp leaders.

But the incident served to illustrate the difficulties facing aid workers amid the chaos of northern Iraq, a region controlled by feuding Iraqi Kurds since 1991.

"Our work is being affected for sure," Mr. Clarry said.

Four members of an international group who had planned to vaccinate children in Amadia, 100 kilometres northeast of the town of Dohuk, were wounded last week when their vehicle came under PKK fire.

And a Swedish group, Qandil, was forced to abandon plans to visit the Ber-

war, Bala area because of shooting, U.N. workers said.

The United Nations has restricted movement for humanitarian groups because of the instability, but that has led to serious delays in providing food, Mr. Clarry said.

Apart from the 20,000 Turkish Kurds in the two Atrush camps run by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), aid groups are also trying to help about 20,000 Iraqi Kurds who fled their villages during Turkish army incursions earlier in the year.

The PKK began to wage war on the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Aug. 25 to punish it for allegedly backing Ankara which twice sent troops into north Iraq to wipe out PKK guerrillas fighting for an independent homeland in Turkey.

But the Turkish campaign appears to have backfired. The area, which has been the theatre of thousands of Turkish troops in the spring is now at least partly under the control of the PKK.

A senior KDP official, who asked not to be named, said the PKK controlled four strategic positions in the west of the region.

He admitted they were a tough adversary but predicted that having lost the support of the Iraqi Kurds, they could not hold out much longer.

"They are very stupid. After the Turkish incursion they had lots of people with them, almost all the peasants in the mountainous regions."

"Even we let them move and did not really pursue them. But now they are alone. Without the backing of the villagers, they are like fish out of water. They will surrender soon," he predicted.

The KDP said about 80 PKK fighters captured in clashes this month were former refugees from Atrush.

"These prisoners told us that 700 people have left the two camps to join PKK groups and that there are still weapons and radio devices there."

"That is why we want to search the camp, but not without arranging it with the UNHCR," a KDP official said.

The instability is compounded by tensions between the KDP and its rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which failed at talks in Dublin last week to agree on implementation of a U.S. and Turkish-backed peace accord.

Their conflict has cost more than 2,000 lives since May 1994.

"I'm sure that Turkey will exploit the unrest, if it doesn't stop soon, as a pretext for another incursion," a senior official from a foreign aid organisation said.

Zeroual urges Algerians to vote, but remains silent on candidacy

PARIS (Agencies) — Algeria's President Liamine Zeroual urged citizens of his troubled country on Saturday to defy guerrillas by voting in the coming presidential election but did not say whether he would be a candidate.

Mr. Zeroual, in a speech broadcast on state-run radio and television, said the presidential poll due in the next two months would break the deadlock in the bloody conflict pitting his army-backed government against militants bent on toppling the country's moderate rulers and wreck the election.

He refused to say whether he himself would contest the election, despite growing speculation in newspapers at home and abroad that Mr. Zeroual, 53, would finally decide to stand.

The daily La Tribune said the main army chiefs had met Mr. Zeroual on Tuesday and discussed his candidacy.

Al Watan newspaper said: "President Zeroual might announce his candidacy in the next hours."

Mr. Zeroual, a general who is also defence minister, took office in January 1994 for a maximum three-year transitional term.

He succeeded a civilian-appointed military five-man presidency which had taken office after army-backed authorities cancelled general elections in January 1992 which Islamists were poised to win but had failed to end the country's crisis.

In less than four years of escalating violence since, an estimated 40,000 people have been killed.

The pressure on Mr. Zeroual to stand climaxed on Saturday when former government spokeswoman Laila Assaloun urged him "not to abandon the nation" after

hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets across the country demanding his candidacy.

The main secular and Muslim militant parties have dismissed the presidential poll, saying it will worsen the country's conflict by prolonging the army-backed government.

Guerrillas, who have stepped up attacks since July with bombings that killed more than 40 people, have vowed to block the election.

"The election will ensure that the people will win back the right to select their leaders without guardianship and any sharing of power," Mr. Zeroual said.

He acknowledged that the election would be held "in hard times" but pledged that the authorities would strive to provide the best conditions for them.

Referring to guerrillas, he said: "The others who wield a criminal threat (seek) to prevent all the nation from expressing its choice. But this threat will be answered by your firm and dignified reaction."

Mr. Zeroual also signed a decree creating an electoral body to oversee the Nov. 16 first round of presidential balloting.

Mr. Zeroual in his speech referred to himself as the "president of the period of transition."

He reminded Algerians that he has invited the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation for Africa Unity to monitor the balloting and ensure "the exclusive right to the Algerian people to choose their leaders."

Algerian held in Paris
An Algerian suspected of involvement in arms smuggling for the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) was questioned and held in custody by French and anti-terrorist judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere Saturday, legal sources said.

Lawyers said Abdul Kader Belkheil was being held on arms and terrorism-related charges. Arrested in Belgium in June, Belkheil was extradited to France on Wednesday.

He is suspected of being a close associate of Abidat Zaoui, currently on trial in Belgium. Zaoui is thought to be a leading figure in the GIA.

Belkheil is also thought to be part of a European arms trafficking operation. A Belgian-registered car belonging to him was found loaded with arms and ammunition bought in Hungary and Poland.

Six other Algerians have already been questioned over the affair: Jamel Loumoudi, Samir Salhi, Mohammed Bertayeb, Ahmad Bekkat, Sir Cheret and Larbi Ait Aldjet.

Meanwhile French Prime Minister Alain Juppe told the newspaper Journal de Dimanche that the inquiry into the recent spate of bombings was "progressing."

"A number of suspects have been identified and the police are stepping up their inquiries," Mr. Juppe said, in an interview to appear on Sunday.

Commenting on reports of friction between the different arms of the security services, he said: "Cooperation between the services has improved," but deplored "the lack of discretion" in some quarters.

"When inquiries as difficult and as serious as this are underway, people should know how to hold their tongues," he stressed.

Aideed forces capture Baidoa

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideed and 600 militiamen thrust out of Mogadishu and seized the southwestern city of Baidoa on Sunday in their most significant move in two years.

Aid officials said Baidoa fell at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT) and international aid workers were rounded up and taken to a single compound in the city, 240 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu.

It was the most important Somali military development since General Aideed's forces were thrown out of the southern port of Kismayu in 1993 and a blow to aid agencies who kept Baidoa as a showcase for their work in Somalia after U.N. troops withdrew in March.

Gen. Aideed left his south Mogadishu stronghold on Saturday night at the head of 600 militiamen and 30 "technical" battlewagons mounted with heavy weapons, for the thrust, aid officials said.

The column seized Baidoa, renowned as "the city of death" in 1992 when it was the centre of Somalia's famine, after some sporadic fighting but there were no precise casualty reports.

Aid officials said Mr. Aideed's force in Baidoa on Sunday moved on towards Bardera town, 165 kilometres to the southwest, which could put them on course for an assault against Kismayu.

In Mogadishu, travellers from Baidoa said the takeover was virtually bloodless and Gen. Aideed's Somali National Alliance (SNA) militiamen had banned all other gunmen from the city's streets.

Rival clan fighters in the city hid most of their arms. Mohammed Kanyare Afrah, interior minister in a government formed by Gen. Aideed which has no international recognition, told reporters "president" Aideed

was received warmly by residents.

He said Gen. Aideed's Baidoa visit was one of several to various regions since July. Gen. Aideed was elected president of Somalia by his supporters in June but rival leaders denounced the move.

Gen. Aideed's Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic radio said the president told Baidoa elders, religious leaders and intellectuals that the purpose of the visit of his "delegation" was to assess the situation and see how people could be helped.

He said he was particularly concerned with problems brought about during the rule of late dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, who was ousted in 1991, and "those later caused by groups working for colonialists and foreign agencies," the radio added.

A radio station run by rival faction leader Osman Ali Hassan Atto said Baidoa residents strongly resisted Gen. Aideed's attack and fighting continued on Sunday after many people were killed and property looted.

A spokesman for the U.N. Development Programme in Nairobi said its 12 or 13 international staff in Baidoa had been taken to a single compound in the city and were being kept there.

"There is some looting of our premises. We were assured in Mogadishu by Aideed's group that nothing would happen to our people or offices but we understand at least one office has been looted," he said.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) said four WFP workers — an Afghan and three Sudanese — were taken from their compound apparently by SNA militiamen to an unknown location.

She said WFP's radio equipment in Baidoa was ripped out.

Filipina maid hopeful despite death sentence

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — A young Filipina maid who could face a firing squad in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for murder was in good spirits on Sunday and expressed hope that she would be pardoned, said embassy officials who visited her.

"Sarah was smiling when I walked in and she said she still had hope that she would be pardoned," Grace Escalante, consul at the Philippine embassy, told Reuters after visiting 16-year-old Sarah Balabagan in prison in the oasis town of Al Ain.

On Saturday, she was led sobbing from an Islamic court there which condemned her to death for the premeditated murder of her Gulf Arab employer, Almas Mohammad Al Baloushi.

It rejected her plea that she stabbed him 34 times in self-defence after he raped her.

In Manila, two migrant worker organisations urged Filipinos to burn thousands of UAE flags to protest the death sentence.

President Fidel Ramos, whose government came under fire in March when a Filipino maid was hanged for murder in Singapore, ordered officials to finance the appeal of Ms. Balabagan, a Muslim from the southern

Philippine city of Cotabato.

Mr. Ramos said he would appeal directly to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan to intervene in the case.

The case threatened to emerge as a major domestic and foreign policy issue in a country sensitive to the plight of overseas workers and deeply embarrassed over the fact that millions must go abroad to find jobs.

Reports of the death sentence led nearly every newspaper in the country Sunday. In an editorial for publication Monday, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, one of the country's leading newspapers, said the verdict raises questions of whether there is a system of justice in the UAE "at least as justice is understood in most other countries."

"If this is not the height of barbarism and a clear miscarriage of justice, we don't know what else to call it," the Friends of Filipino Migrant Workers Inc. and the Association of International Domestic for Development said in a statement.

They also urged the Philippine government to declare a "danger zone" and off-limits to Filipino workers until the maid is set free.

Kabul parades Pakistani 'agents'

KABUL (AP) — Amid growing fears of renewed fighting in the Afghan capital, government officials Sunday put on display three Pakistani men accused of spying and working with a warring rival faction.

The parade of spies in Kabul, arranged for a gathering of Western and Afghan journalists, was the latest in President Burhanuddin Rabbani's accusations of Pakistani support for the rebel Taliban militia.

Mr. Rabbani's forces have suffered a series of devastating defeats at the hands of the Taliban in recent weeks. Earlier this month Mr. Rabbani's western stronghold of Herat fell to the Taliban with barely a fight.

Since then, there has been growing concern among Kabul residents that the Taliban's next target will be the capital.

"There's going to be a battle for Kabul in a week, maybe 10 days," a United Nations official said on condition that he not be named.

"And it's going to be a bloody one," he said. "The U.N. can not do anything now. It's up to the Afghans to stop the fighting."

Afghan security officials, meanwhile, told reporters the three Pakistanis — Ashfaq Sadiq from Pakistan's Punjab province, Shakil Ahmad from the Northwest Frontier Province and former police officer, Hamid Ullah from Kabul, as spies.

Along with the alleged Pakistani agents, Afghan authorities showed off Pakistan passports with false Afghan visas of two of the men, a pistol and a full clip of bullets, identification papers and a telephone handset connected to a series of wires.

"The telephone has been used to intercept communications within Kabul," said Mohammad Ali, a senior officer with Afghanistan's secret service known as Khad.

Also on display was a calendar and address book containing the names of an arms dealer and the former head of Pakistan's secret service, Hameed Gul.

Afghan forces last week caught two of the men in Khayk in the northern Panjshir Valley while the third man was arrested in the capital outside the Defence Ministry building.

"The evidence speaks for itself," Mr. Ali said. "Pakistan interferes with Afghanistan's internal affairs through the militia, spying and bombardments."

Pakistan has repeatedly denied any involvement in the bitter Afghan civil war, claiming to be an independent observer of the country's ongoing fighting.

After nearly six months of relative peace, the prospect of renewed fighting in Kabul has many residents terrified.

"People are very worried, again," said shopkeeper Abdul Rahof. "We have already survived so much, we cannot take anymore fighting."

While Mr. Rabbani has been trying to assure both foreign relief workers and Kabul citizens that the city would remain peaceful, his spokesman has warned on several occasions of an imminent attack from Taliban based south and west of the capital.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Oman asks Mekki to oversee economics ministry
MUSCAT (R) — Oman's Sultan Qaboos on Sunday asked one of his ministers to oversee the affairs of the Finance and Economy Ministry after the death last week in a car accident of Deputy Prime Minister Qais Ben Abdul Monem Al Zawawi. A decree issued by the Sultan said civil service minister Ahmad Ben Abdul Nabi Mekki will with immediate effect overlook "the operations of the ministry of finance and economy." Mr. Mekki is also deputy to the president of the central bank. Zawawi, who was killed on Monday when the car he and the Sultan were in was struck by another vehicle, was deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

Yemen expels hundreds of militants
DUBAI (AFP) — Yemen has expelled hundreds of militants after it came under fire from Egypt and other countries for sheltering them, an advisor to President Ali Abdullah Saleh said. "Hundreds of Arab extremists known as Islamists," including Egyptians, were expelled, General Yahya Al Mutawakkel said in Monday's edition of the United Arab Emirates weekly, Al Shuruk. Many belonged to Jihad (holy war), which has militants in Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestinian areas. Gen. Mutawakkel said. Some were veterans of the war in Afghanistan. "These militants were not in military camps. Some were living in Yemen as theology students and others as teachers," he said. "They conducted inappropriate activities using this cover."

Bomb hits Israeli patrol in S. Lebanon
MARJAYOUN (R) — A roadside bomb exploded in South Lebanon on Sunday, wounding three Israeli soldiers in a motorised patrol, pro-Israeli sources said. Two soldiers were seriously injured and the third was slightly hurt, the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia sources said. They were evacuated to Israel by helicopter. The attack took place on the road to Quelela village just south of Marjayoun, headquarters of the 3,000-strong SLA which helps the Israelis control a 15-kilometres-wide border occupation zone.

Velayati begins Armenia visit
TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left here Sunday for Yerevan where he is to take part in a tripartite meeting with Armenia and Turkmenistan, the official Islamic republic news agency IRNA said. The three countries are to discuss three-way cooperation in economy, banking, transport and energy, it said. The foreign minister of Iran, Armenia and Turkmenistan signed several accords in Tehran in April for economic and technical cooperation. Their last such meeting was held in Turkmenistan in July.

Turkey says 19 Kurdish guerrillas killed
DIYARBAKIR (R) — Troops killed 19 Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) rebels in a series of clashes in southeast Turkey, security officials said on Sunday. There was no independent confirmation of the killings. The officials said five of the guerrillas died in fighting in the district of Kulp, where Turkish forces striking from land and air killed 51 rebels last week in one of the southeast's biggest clashes this year. Twelve other rebels were killed on Mount Cudi, a PKK stronghold near the Iraqi border, the regional governor's office in the city of Diyarbakir said in a statement.

King Hassan II rejects idea of 'Islamic terrorism'
PARIS (AFP) — King Hassan II of Morocco rejected the idea of "Islamic terrorism" in a forthright denunciation of the current wave of attacks in France in an interview Sunday. Speaking to the French-language television channel TV5, he also announced a forthcoming visit to France to meet French President Jacques Chirac. Of the bombings in France, he said: "The attacks are political attacks. They are not religious... and we will know one day that those responsible for the attacks, even if they say they are Muslim, know nothing of their religion." He said relations between Morocco and France were better than before. He would be travelling to Paris in a few weeks to meet Mr. Chirac, he said, without specifying the date.

Iran: U.S. trying to partition Iraq
TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri on Sunday accused the United States of seeking to dismember Iraq, the official news agency IRNA reported. Mr. Nateq Nuri, in a meeting with a Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation, reaffirmed Iran's support for Iraq's "independence and territorial integrity and a government there based on the will of its people." Tehran is alarmed over Washington's efforts to mediate a peace accord between rival Kurdish factions in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, according to diplomats here. Their peace talks in Baghdad broke down on Saturday. The head of the Kuwaiti delegation, deputy Ghanam Ali Al Jombar, said his country also respected Iraq's territorial integrity and called for cooperation with Iran to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Aideed 'investigating' jailed journalist
MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia's self-styled president, warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed, told local officials at the weekend that the case of a journalist now under arrest was being investigated. He said journalist Ali Musa Abdi, who worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation and French news agency Agence France Presse (AFP), would be released if he was found innocent of the charges for which he was arrested, a spokesman said on Sunday. No details have been given of the charges. Mr. Ali, abducted by pro-Aideed gunmen on Sept. 8, is being held underground in south Mogadishu. His wife, who has been able to visit him daily said he was well but "weary."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 — Annals of Farthing Wood
14:30 — (Sunrise) Day
15:00 — Survival
15:30 — Families
17:00 — Children's programme — Les Mondes Englottus
17:30 — Telefilm — A Dieu Les Ronds
18:00 — News in French
19:15 — French Varieties
19:30 — News Headlines
19:35 — Drama — Camp Wilder
20:00 — McHale's Navy
20:30 — The Bold and the Beautiful
21:10 — Harb of the West
22:00 — News in English
22:30 — The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries
23:25 — Film: "The Dream Team"

PRAYER TIMES

16:55 — Fair
17:30 — Dhur
18:00 — Ash
18:15 — Maghreb
18:30 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweilth, Tel. 210740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Mild weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min. Max. temp.
Amman 17-27
Aqaba 24-36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohdine Halseh 019220
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 730111
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Afaf Al Anshab 612607
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Ascenta pharmacy 679585
Nairook pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simasani pharmacy 670441
Najm pharmacy 623672
Najm pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)
Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shalhin 958710
Khafid pharmacy 983417

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Deserts 15/32
Jordan Valley 22/35

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 29, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings:
Amman 38 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

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NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mohdine Halseh 019220
Dr. Ghaleb Zaidieh 730111
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Afaf Al Anshab 612607
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 770336
Al Ascenta pharmacy 679585
Nairook pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 626730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Simasani pharmacy 670441
Najm pharmacy 623672
Najm pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)
Dr. Ahmad Qanu (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Randa Shalhin 958710
Khafid pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 601111
Civil Defence Emergency 630343
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 634022
Traffic Police 686200
Hotel Complaints 602801
Price Complaints 601176
Water and Sewerage 623101
Complaints 697467
Amman Municipality 671111
Complaints (director assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 601101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 600101
Jordan Electricity Authority 616415
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-532101
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-532101

HOSPITALS:

Hussein Medical Centre 1281332
Khafid Medical Centre, J. Amn 642416

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 — Beirut (RJ)
07:00 — Zagreb (RJ)
08:00 — Agaba (RJ)
12:30 — Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 — London (RJ)
13:30 — Frankfurt (RJ)
21:45 — Damascus (RJ)
21:45 — Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15 — Beirut (RJ)
22:30 — Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 — Istanbul (TK)
06:35 — London (RJ)
07:30 — Rome (AZ)
08:45 — Beirut (ME)
12:00 — Khartoum (SD)
14:00 — Doha (O7)
14:30 — Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 — Kuwait (KU)
21:25 — Cairo (MS)
22:00 — Doha (EK)
22:30 — Damascus, London (BA)
02:30 — Amsterdam (KL)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)
Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 — Beirut (RJ)
07:00 — Zagreb (RJ)
08:00 — Agaba (RJ)
12:30 — Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:10 — London (RJ)
13:30 — Frankfurt (RJ)
21:45 — Damascus (RJ)
21:45 — Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15 — Beirut (RJ)
22:30 — Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 — Istanbul (TK)
06:35 — London (RJ)
07:30 — Rome (AZ)
08:45 — Beirut (ME)
12:00 — Khartoum (SD)
14:00 — Doha (O7)
14:30 — Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30 — Kuwait (KU)
21:25 — Cairo (MS)
22:00 — Doha (EK)
22:30 — Damascus, London (BA)
02:30 — Amsterdam (KL)

MARKET PRICES

Opportunity price in fils per kg.

Apple 1800/400
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammar) 620
Cabbage 130/180
Carrot 420/300
Cauliflower 190/230
Cucumber (large) 120/180
Cucumber (small) 210/150
Eggplant 250/150
Figs 320/250
Peaches 180/120
Pepper (hot) 180/120
Pepper (sweet) 220/150
Pineapple 340/250
Pistachio 240/160
Pumpkin 620/140
Sweet Melon 620/140
Tomato 110/70
Water Melon 120/170

HIJAZ RAILWAY

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Hazardous chemicals containers explode, spread blaze in Aqaba

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An explosion ripped through dozens of containers causing fire to engulf a section of the port of Aqaba on Saturday, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times Sunday that the blaze, which started Saturday at about noon, was the result of high temperatures which caused the combustion of the hazardous chemicals inside some of the containers.

The official added that preliminary investigations indicated that the chemicals, which included nitro-cellulose — a liquefied gas used as fuel to propel rockets and is also known as gun cotton, used in the manufacturing of

explosives — were improperly packed in the containers.

He said the containers were exposed to temperatures as high as 40°C, causing a container to explode.

The resultant fire spread quickly to the other containers on that pier, he said.

He added that it took CDD units less than one hour to extinguish the blaze and isolate other containers on the pier.

CDD units were kept on full alert for 16 hours, the CDD official added.

The official could not give an estimate of the amount of damage caused by the fire, but said at least 20 containers full of various goods and commodities were totally destroyed.

No one was injured in the incident.

According to the official, if safety procedures were implemented properly, the explosion and blaze could have been avoided.

"No one informed the CDD that hazardous materials were being stored at the port," the official said.

According to the official, containers were not carrying warning labels and were not stored in a suitable area.

"We have contacted Aqaba authorities to coordinate amongst all concerned to inform us about hazardous material being shipped to and stored in the ports so we can take necessary safety measures," the official said.

An investigative committee has been formed to conduct inquiries into the incident.

American firm to study feasibility of Aqaba airport expansion

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has selected an American company to conduct a feasibility study on expanding the Aqaba airport and the awarding of the contract is expected to be announced this week after the Council of Ministers approve the CAA selection.

CAA Director-General Ahmad Jweiber declined to give the name of the company, which will conduct the study under a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (TDA).

The grant was announced at a conference organised by the TDA, which is directly answerable to the White House, on development of the Jordan Rift Valley in Amman early this year.

It is a condition of the grant that the study be awarded to an American company.

More than a dozen firms from the U.S. had submitted offers to conduct the study.

Some of the offers came from companies which already engaged in what industry experts describe as totally innovative projects in some third world countries — airports built, owned and operated strictly by the private sector under concessions granted by the government.

No clear idea has crystallised yet on the administrative shape and nature of an expanded Aqaba airport.

"We hope to announce the awarding of the contract after the government approves our recommendation," Mr. Jweiber told the Jordan Times.

The study is expected to take 22 "man-months" — roughly six months — and will cover all aspects of expanding the Aqaba airport and operations to serve as an international airport for travellers to Jordan and Israel.

Under an agreement in principle reached by Jordan and Israel, the airport will be expanded towards the Israeli border and will have two separate terminals to serve



Ahmad Jweiber

the two countries.

Unofficial estimates put the cost of expansion at \$200 million, and the government is expected to focus on the private sector for financing the project.

The CAA has said that no decision has been taken yet on the actual development of

the airport, and added that it is in the "first stage of the process — the development and idea phase."

"The idea is to develop a regional airport that will support other developmental sectors such as trade, industry, tourism etc. and that will achieve economies of scale, resulting in overall savings to the country and a better utilisation of scarce resources," said Mr. Jweiber in a statement to the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Jweiber, the second stage will be "the undertaking of the feasibility study through rigorous multi-scenario, cost-benefit analyses, and finally the last stage is the decision-making stage in which the decision to embark the project is taken."

Mr. Jweiber stressed that "the government is serious about involving the private sector in this project and would not like to subject the budget to further pressure."

"If the project is feasible, then the private sector will want to pursue it, and if the project is not feasible then

no one from the private sector will pursue it and the project will not materialise," he said.

The project is expected to be part of an agreement between Jordan and Israel on cooperation in the transport sector — one of the more than 20 accords that the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty calls for.

According to the Israeli Ministry of Transport, Jordan and Israel disagreed on the proposed airport expansion but a breakthrough was achieved when His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met in the Jordan Valley on Aug. 28, and the Crown Prince accepted a suggestion by Mr. Peres "to build an airport terminal — half of which will be Jordanian and (the other) half Israeli — on the border."

The agreement on transport — which included a separate section on civil aviation — is in its final form and is expected to be formally signed soon.

Japan to finance \$1.2 m worth of projects in Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan and Jordan on Sunday exchanged documents under which Tokyo will provide 1.12 billion yen (\$1.12 million) to finance three projects, raising to \$52 million Japanese grant aid to Jordan since 1993.

Included in the three new projects is a \$47 million yen (\$5.6 million) facility to be located at Aqaba to fight possible oil spills in the Red Sea.

It is part of an agreement reached among Jordan, Israel and Egypt in talks on regional cooperation in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

The multilateral phase tackles the issues of water, refugees, arms control, regional economic cooperation and the environment.

Japan chairs the working group on the environment.

The other two grants covered under the documents exchanged on Sunday by Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki Kimura are: 550 million yen (\$5.7 million) to help Jordan purchase agriculture machinery and vehicles to increase production, and 24 million yen (about \$250,000) to help Jordan Television produce educational and cultural programmes.

The formalisation of the grant aid comes one day ahead of a visit by Japanese Minister Tomuchi Murayama, who is on a tour of the Middle East.

It was not immediately known whether Mr. Murayama might announce fresh aid to Jordan, but diplomatic sources said it was likely.

Jordan qualified for an outright Japanese grant aid in 1993 when the per capita income in the Kingdom plunged to less than \$1,200

— a floor set by the Tokyo government.

Since then, Tokyo offered \$40 million in aid to the Kingdom until the end of 1994, and the grant announced Sunday is part of assistance for fiscal 1995.

Jordan and Japan are discussing projects worth tens of million of dollars, and officials in Tokyo say they expect agreements to be reached by the end of the year in most of the proposed projects.

The projects include a complete bridge and crossing point over the Jordan River between the West Bank and Jordan, as well as access roads to border points between the Kingdom and Israel.

Japan is Jordan's largest creditor, holding about \$1.8 billion of the Kingdom's foreign debts of \$5.6 billion.

In May, Tokyo agreed to adjust interest on the loans to alleviate the rising burden

of the loans given in Japanese yen as the Japanese currency gained strength against the dollar.

Japanese foreign policy does not allow for cancellation of foreign dues and continued development loans.

As such, Tokyo has promised to make more funds available to Jordan at concessionary terms to help the Kingdom's balance of payments and build foreign currency reserves.

Japanese officials also indicated recently that the Tokyo government was considering "some kind of a formula under which Jordan's debt burden could be further reduced."

The formula could be on a bilateral level as well as on a multilateral level with the Paris Club of creditor governments, they said.

In a statement on Sunday, the Japanese embassy said the grant aid to Jordan came "in recognition of the great

demand for the enhancement of the welfare of the people of Jordan and in view of the friendly relations between Jordan and Japan."

It said the 500 million yen grant to the agricultural sector would help Jordan's efforts to become "more self-reliant in basic foods, such as potatoes, wheat etc."

It noted that the grant for the marine pollution centre at Aqaba is part of the "Upper Gulf of Aqaba Oil Spill Contingency Project" formulated by the multilateral working group on the environment.

The statement said the grant for Jordan Radio and Television Corporation will "promote education in Jordan through the donation of cultural and educational television programmes," and noted that Japanese aid to Jordan as "cultural grants" now totalled 430 million yen (\$4.4 million).



Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi meets with a visiting Cuban parliamentary delegation to discuss enhancing bilateral relations (Petra photo)

Visiting Cuban parliamentarians suggest forming parliamentary friendship group

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Cuban parliamentary delegation Sunday discussed the establishment of a Jordanian-Cuban parliamentary friendship group to take charge of stimulating bilateral cooperation in parliamentary and other fields.

The Cuban delegation met with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour and Deputy Abdullah Ensour, chairman of the House's Foreign Affairs Committee, to discuss cooperation and developments in

the Middle East region.

The head of the Cuban delegation said the delegation, which arrived here Saturday from Syria, wanted to explore means of encouraging ties between the two countries.

He said Cuba has always supported Arab countries in their struggles.

Mr. Srour underlined the strong ties between Cuba and Jordan and briefed the delegation on Jordan's parliamentary life, political pluralism and its democratic

march.

Dr. Ensour reviewed the Jordan-Israel peace treaty with the Cuban delegation.

The meeting was also attended by several Jordanian parliamentarians as well as Cuban Ambassador to Jordan Ernesto Gomez.

The Cuban delegation earlier met with Speaker of the Senate Ahmad Lawzi and discussed parliamentary affairs and means of promoting bilateral relations.

Innovative chair helps children with cerebral palsy

By Lola Keilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Centre for Social Development in the Hai Nazzal district held a course on how to design and manufacture a special compressed cardboard chair for children with cerebral palsy which would cost about \$370 less than a similar metal model manufactured in the U.S.

These chairs help children with cerebral palsy to stand as well as sit securely and comfortably without the need for restraining straps, said volunteer course teacher and physiotherapist Archie Hinchcliffe, who designed the chair.

Ne'meh Mustafa Abdul Halim, mother of five, two of who have cerebral palsy, said that although she still found the chair expensive at

JD 20 each, she was happy that Ayman, her 11-year-old son, could now watch television comfortably with the rest of his family. Ayman's younger sister Ala'a has been fitted to receive her own chair soon.

Before getting his cardboard chair, Ayman had to be tied to a regular chair to remain propped up, the mother said.

Unfortunately, said Mrs. Hinchcliffe, who is married to Jordan Peter Hinchcliffe, only two out of the seven women trainees in the course were willing to stay on and work on what the centre hoped would be a useful income-generating project.

The others could not spare the time, according to the two women who did stay on.

"It is difficult for them to stay away from home from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily," said Hiba Musalleh, a 21-year-old with a diploma in computer science.

In addition, Mrs. Hinchcliffe said, some of young women were reluctant to continue working because it involved their co-signing a bank loan to finance the project.

"The idea of getting a group loan frightened the women," she said.

The production of each chair takes one week, and so far eight chairs, have been ordered for construction.

"We put a great deal of work into our chair designs, but the smile that lights up Ayman's face gave us so much pleasure that we forgot all our weariness," said Ms. Musalleh.

Opposition parties condemn Libya's expulsion of Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian opposition political parties Sunday condemned Libya's expulsion of Palestinians from its territory and demanded that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi reconsider his decision and rescind the expulsion order.

In a statement circulated to the press the political parties said Libyan authorities have expelled tens of thousands of Palestinians and other Arab nationals who have been working and living in Libya for many years.

This arbitrary measure, the statement said, specifically harms the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya because no other Arab state is willing to accept them.

Many of the expellees have been stranded in the desert at the Libyan-Egyptian border for more than two weeks as the Egyptian and Lebanese governments refused to accept them even though they hold travel documents issued in Egypt and Lebanon, the statement said.

It also said that Israel, for its part, is closing the door

on the expellees entry because the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians does not provide the right of return to the Palestinians.

The statement said that the expulsion of the Palestinians is taking place at a time when the Arab World is exposed to Zionist-imperialist aggression, adding that Libya and Iraq face sanctions and Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese lands are under occupation.

Stressing that the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya would increase the Palestinian people's sufferings, the statement said that the move would cause further regional problems not only for the Palestinians but also for the Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees, and such developments would never help end the sanctions imposed on Libya.

The statement demanded that Libya rescind the expulsion order because it is a violation of human rights and harms inter Arab relations.

It said that the Arabs are

now in dire need for unity of ranks "to confront the enemy, conspiracies and aggression" and to deal with their common problems.

The political parties' statement came four days after the Lower House of Parliament issued a condemnation of the Libyan measure urging Arab countries to help stop the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya.

The parliament statement described as irresponsible the expulsion order, stressing that the move would remain a black mark in the Libyan leadership's history.

The following political parties signed Sunday's statement: the Islamic Action Front, the National Action Front, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Progressive Arab Baath Party, the Jordanian Socialist Arab Baath Party, the Jordanian Democratic Peoples Party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Unity Party and the Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party.

Deputy calls subpoena 'unjust'

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputy Abdul Munem Abu Zant Sunday criticised a recent court order summoning the deputy to appear in court on charges of disrupting the peace and resisting arrest on Oct. 28 following a Friday prayer.

Sheikh Abu Zant, who returned to Jordan last week after attending an Islamic conference in Baghdad, told the Jordan Times that he was informed of the court order by his colleagues at the conference. He said the subpoena was unjust.

"I was frankly surprised to learn that my name was among the 25 suspects in a court list," the Amman 2nd District deputy said.

Judicial sources Sunday confirmed that Sheikh Abu Zant's name was among the 25 suspects charged with the Oct. 1994 mosque clashes in the Hai Nazzal district of east Amman.

Sheikh Abu Zant said that until Sunday he had received no official court order nor a request to lift his immunity.

Immunity is only applicable while Parliament is in session, therefore it will be lifted on Sept. 20 when the extraordinary session, now in process, concludes.

On Oct. 28, Sheikh Abu Zant, an outspoken opponent of the peace treaty with Israel, was slightly injured in clashes after prayers at Abu Hureirah Mosque in Amman.

According to the deputy, he was assaulted after prayers outside the mosque. At first, Sheikh Abu Zant said, he was considered a witness to the brawl, "but four months later I learned

that I became a suspect," he added.

"Police first apprehended 24 people accusing them of beating me up," the deputy said.

"But a few weeks later, the 24 men and I were charged with attacking and resisting arrest," he added.

Deputy Abu Zant was taken to King Hussein Medical Centre suffering minor injuries after delivering a sermon against the peace treaty, Islamic Action Front (IAF) sources claimed at the time.

Government spokespersons then said the deputy was hurt in clashes inside the mosque during Friday prayers.

Last week, the IAF criticised the south Amman court order summoning Sheikh Abu Zant to appear in court, because, the IAF said, he is a deputy and thus is entitled to immunity.

IAF members charged that Deputy Abu Zant's name was mentioned as a suspect last week at the court hearing of the suspects in Abu Hureirah Mosque incident.

Deputy Abu Zant was involved in several rows in Parliament, including a Jan. 25 dispute with the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi, in which the deputy demanded that the minister provide the House with a full list of names of mosque preachers, dates of their appointments and the names of all retired preachers.

Sheikh Abu Zant accused Dr. Abbadi of using improper terms, ignorance of basic Arabic and lacking knowledge of his ministry's internal status.

Speaker of the Lower House Sa'ad Hayel Srour recently announced during a regular session of Parliament that the House had not received any requests to lift Deputy Abu Zant's immunity.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

* "Tombes du Ciel," at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
* "Ghost House," taken from a novel by Isabella Allendy at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

* "Entering the World of the Novel," by Dr. Nicholas Linfield at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* "Beneath the Waves," photographs on Aqaba underwater life by Julia Reinholdt at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.
* Works by artist Ghazi 'Ayasrah at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

DARAT AL FUNUN

* Graphic work by several artists and students in the South Gallery. * Photography of Jordan, 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue House. * Painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House. * 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Ali Bermamet * Open Air Sculpture workshop. * Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

Powell fuels talk of 3rd U.S. party

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Popular ex-military chief Colin Powell may be unsure about his presidential ambitions, but he speaks for millions of Americans when he says the time may be right for a third political party.

More and more voters are prepared to jettison the time-honoured two-party political system next year to cast their ballots for a candidate that is neither Democrat nor Republican, according to recent polls.

And it is Gen. Powell more than any other potential candidate who has captivated the public. As he released his memoirs Saturday, and embarked on a publicity blitz that is intense even by U.S. standards, Gen. Powell's popularity has surged to new heights.

A new Time magazine/CNN poll found that 53 per cent of all Americans want to see Gen. Powell run for president, and 45 per cent want to see him run as an independent.

The poll also showed Gen. Powell would handily defeat President Bill Clinton if the former military chief ran as the Republican nominee, and would even come out on top should he run as an independent against Mr. Clinton and Republican frontrunner Bob Dole, a veteran senator.

Through Gen. Powell told CBS-TV that the best road

to the White House may be on the Republican ticket, his moderate views lead many analysts to believe that Gen. Powell would have a tough time winning the nomination since conservatives play a key role in the Republican nominating process.

Gen. Powell, former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff who successfully led the US forces in the 1991 Gulf War, himself has acknowledged feeling uneasy with either party. "Neither of the two major parties fits me comfortably in its present state," he wrote in his new autobiography, *My American Journey*.

"The time may be at hand for a third major party to emerge to represent this sensible centre of the American political spectrum."

Couched in those terms, a majority of Americans would agree with Gen. Powell, according to Karlann Bowman, a polling expert at the American Enterprise Institute.

"The number of people who want to see a third party is certainly growing," said Bowman, adding that Gen. Powell has "by far the best positive-negative ratio in politics today."

Though leading a third party or independent movement has obvious advantages in terms of voter appeal, it is a daunting task



Gen. Colin Powell

to leap over the obstacles that have been placed in the paths of political renegades.

In 1992, Texas billionaire Ross Perot mounted one of the most successful independent campaigns in decades. He got just under 20 per cent of the vote, the most for a candidate running outside the two-party structure since former President Theodore Roosevelt ran as a "progressive" in 1912.

The most difficult chore he faced was merely getting on the ballot in all 50 U.S. states. Simply put, it is much easier if you are a Democrat or a Republican to get your name before voters in each U.S. state.

"It's just (Democrats and Republicans) trying to eliminate the competition," said Richard Winger, editor of

Ballot Access News. "Most state legislators never have to worry about being defeated, but when a third party or independent gets involved, it makes it unpredictable. So they write all these laws."

The result is a patchwork of extraordinarily confusing and time-consuming procedures through which third-party or independent candidates must navigate in order to get on the ballot from state to state.

In Tennessee, for example, an independent candidate needs only 25 signatures from voters in the entire state to get on the ballot. In Maryland, it takes a petition with 75,000 voters' names.

Making it even more confusing are differing rules for independent candidates, or genuine third-party politicians. Mr. Perot, for instance, ran not as a third-party candidate, but as an independent, though some have encouraged him to convert his United We Stand organisation into a bona fide political party.

Running under that label would help him get on the ballot in some states, but hurt him in others.

"See how silly these laws are?" said Mr. Winger, who is a consultant to people who attempt to break past the two-party structure. "Each state is like its own little world."

2 drown, thousands flee as mudflows sweep northern Philippine towns

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines (AP) — A judge and a 13-year old boy drowned in a fresh series of floods sweeping already devastated towns west of Pinatubo volcano, authorities said Sunday.

Police said volcanic debris set loose by incessant rains from the slopes of Pinatubo over the weekend also sent thousands more residents in several towns fleeing to evacuation camps.

Regional Police Director Dionysio Ventura said Judge Antonio David of the Angeles City Court died late Saturday in a strong river current in Porac town of Pampanga, 67 kilometres north of Manila.

The boy, Eddie Wardo, drowned early Sunday in Santo Domingo village of nearby Minalin town.

Judge David and 12 others, including his wife and seven policemen, were trying to cross a temporary bridge along the Manganit River when the river bank they were standing on caved in, said Mr. Ventura.

Rescuers managed to pluck out everyone and take them to safety, except the

judge, whose body was later found Sunday morning 14 kilometres downstream in Bacolor town, he said.

Disaster officials said about half a million residents have been displaced from 18 Pampanga towns since the mudflows began in July.

Loosened volcanic debris, known as lahars, has destroyed hundreds of villages and thousands of hectares (acres) of farmland in Pampanga, Zambales and Tarlac since Pinatubo erupted in June 1991.

Labour leader, 2 teenage boys killed in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A labour leader and two teenage boys were among six people killed Sunday in a ritual of daily killings that has terrorised this southern port city in recent months.

Uzma Ghani, a senior activist of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party and one of the country's biggest labour leaders, died in hospital following an attack on his vehicle by at least four gunmen, police said.

Also Sunday gunmen sprayed a busy shopping centre in a middle-class neighbourhood in west Karachi with bullets killing two teenage boys and wounding another three, they said.

Mr. Ghani's bodyguard Police Const. Mohammad Javed died immediately. A passerby, Feroze Kanga, was killed in the cross fire.

Union president at the newly privatised Muslim Commercial Bank, Mr. Ghani gained national recognition as a labour leader 20 years ago when he led a campaign against a government scheme to nationalise the banks.

He was jailed several times for his union activities.

"He was a fine man, a gentleman. We don't know who killed him he never hurt anyone," said Riaz Ahmed Khan, a close friend of Mr. Ghani's.

The 1,500 branches of the Muslim Commercial Bank located throughout Pakistan declared Monday a holiday to mourn Mr. Ghani's death.

No one has taken responsibility for the attack.

The Aligarh Shopping Centre assault occurred during the busy noon hour, when the 250-shop centre was packed with shoppers.

"This area has been peaceful. Until now there hasn't been any tension," said Mohammad Afzal, a store owner. "Armed youths came in and just started firing."

Police routinely blame much of the violence in Karachi on militant members of the largest faction of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, led by Altaf Hussain.

"The shooting at Aligarh is an act of terrorism," said Police Const. Mohammad Saddiq, although it's not clear who was behind it.

Elsewhere in the city police found a bullet-riddled body of a teenage boy bringing Sunday's death toll by midday to six.



Pope John Paul II and South African President Nelson Mandela talk at the presidential guest house in Pretoria (AFP photo)

Pope praises changes in S. Africa

GERMISTON, South Africa (AFP) — Pope John Paul II Sunday praised the advent of democracy in South Africa, saying it gives hope for the resolution of violent conflicts in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world.

Addressing what organisers claimed were 250,000 pilgrims — but looked less than 100,000 — at the Goshforth Park racetrack in this city east of Johannesburg, the Pontiff said the end of apartheid had been a matter for rejoicing throughout the world.

"Seeing what is happening here, men and women of good will hope that in other parts of the continent too, and throughout the world, violence will give way to dialogue and agreement, and the lives of innocent men, women and children will no longer be in danger," the Pope said in a sermon delivered at an open air mass at the racetrack.

He said that a "new dawn of hope has risen" in Africa. "Much blood has been spilt on the soil of Africa," the Pope said. "The people of Africa have been painfully divided."

He invited Catholics to work for peace as he called for an end to conflict in Africa and in the Balkans.

Peace is lacking in Eastern Europe, and in Sudan, Algeria, Rwanda, Burundi and, "until recently, in South Africa," because of apartheid," he said.

The challenge facing the people of the continent, Pope John Paul II said, "is a

conversion to solidarity, marked by magnanimity, forgiveness and reconciliation."

"This is the only path out of the moral bankruptcy of racial prejudice and ethnic hatred," he said.

"The changed world situation has had a profound effect on Africa," the Pontiff added. "The time of ideological contrasts is over; the real problems of the peoples of Africa have to be tackled, with all available resources."

He also praised the "irreplaceable" role played by women in Africa "in humanising society" and urged them to be "teachers of peace" and to "serve peace by teaching respect and love for every human being."

The Pontiff arrived at the racetrack at the head of a cavalcade of 12 cars and then made his way through the vast crowd aboard his "Popemobile," waving and offering blessings as he snaked his way around the huge field.

Already waiting in the VIP area were President Nelson Mandela — a Methodist — who had arrived earlier by helicopter, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Frederik De Klerk, Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, and other senior politicians, as well as bishops and cardinals from throughout southern Africa.

Pope John Paul II greeted the assembly in Zulu, Southern Sotho, English and Afrikaans and was in turn greeted by Sotho praise-singer Anthony Khoali, clad

in animal skins and beads, and by a group of Sotho traditional dancers.

The two-hour mass was then celebrated in English, Southern Sotho, Xhosa, Northern Sotho, Zulu, Pedi, Portuguese, Swazi and Afrikaans.

At the conclusion of the service, the Pope banded over his "apostolic exhortation," offering instruction based on the African Church Synod he chaired in Rome in 1994, to 12 representatives of the local church.

Pilgrims had travelled by coach from around the country and neighbouring states throughout the weekend, many arriving here in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The Pope had always refused to visit South Africa during the white-minority apartheid regime, being forced in 1988 to travel through the country to Lesotho when bad weather forced his plane to land in Johannesburg.

In welcoming the 75-year-old Pope at the start of his three-day visit Saturday, Mr. Mandela said many South Africans had long yearned for a papal visit.

"To say the visit is long overdue is to pay tribute to your own abhorrence of the system of apartheid," Mr. Mandela said.

On Monday the Pope flies to Nairobi for the last leg of his three-nation African tour which began in the west African state of Cameroon Thursday.

Town offers baby bonus to combat population decline

NIZHNY NOVGOROD, Russia (AP) — Concerned about a population decline, the region surrounding Russia's fourth-largest city has begun offering cash rewards to women who give birth. The modest payments aren't likely to make female residents of Nizhny Novgorod want to rush out and get pregnant, however. Under a newly issued regional decree, reported by ITAR-TASS, mothers will be paid 1 million rubles (\$225) for their first child and 1.3 million rubles (\$292) for their second.

Fantasies make men better lovers — survey

LONDON (R) — British men have sex seven times a day — in their minds — and they should keep dreaming as it improves their love life. A survey by men's health magazine calculated that men fantasise 2,555 times a year about having intercourse. "Sexual fantasy improves the quality of your actual sex life," the magazine survey said. "Research shows sexual fantasies occur most often in men who enjoy the greatest sexual satisfaction. So dream on. The male mind is simply not monogamous, but men shouldn't feel guilty," it added.

French losing taste for baguettes

PARIS (R) — The French Millers Association said breadmaking was endangered by the public's loss of appetite for traditional breads like the celebrated baguette. The association said French people each ate nearly a kilo (2.2 lb) of bread each day at the start of the century, only half a kilo (about a pound) daily in 1945 and now ate only a third of that quantity daily. The main culprit, it said, were the introduction into French diets of new breakfast foods such as cereals as well as claims by nutritionists in the 1970s and 1980s that bread was fattening.

Reeve making progress, brother says

NEW YORK (R) — Actor Christopher Reeve, paralysed since a riding accident in May, is making progress and is able to say "three or four" words at a time, his brother said in a television interview. Reeve, 42, can get around in an electric wheelchair he controls by blowing through a tube, said his brother, Benjamin Reeve, on American Journal, shown recently. The star of the Superman movies was injured in a horseback riding accident over the Memorial Day weekend in Virginia. The New York native has since been moved to a rehabilitation facility in West Orange, New Jersey.

French filmmaker honoured

FRANKFURT (AP) — Jean-Luc Godard, the French avant-garde filmmaker, is to be awarded the Adorno Prize for a lifetime of artistic achievement, city officials said. Mayor Claudia Roth will present the 50,000 Mark (\$35,000) prize Sunday to Godard, 64-year-old director of *Breathless*, *My Life To Live*, *Every Man For Himself* and 30 other films and video projects. Godard is "one of the great aesthetic avant-gardists of the 20th century," said the award announcement from the city of Frankfurt. "His bravery and readiness to experiment, bringing him into constantly changing artistic terrain, has given film undreamed-of potential for expression and life." Frankfurt has awarded the Adorno Prize every three years since 1977 to renowned artists and philosophers. Past winners include philosopher Jurgen Habermas and conductor and composer Pierre Boulez. The prize was created in honour of Theodor W. Adorno, the German sociologist who emigrated to the United States during the Nazi regime and returned after the war to Frankfurt.

U.N. General Assembly has Bosnia, nuclear issues, Pope on agenda

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The U.N. General Assembly opens here Tuesday with a full agenda involving peace measures for Bosnia, nuclear testing, the 50th anniversary of the organisation's founding, and a visit by the Pope.

A summit on Oct. 22-24 will bring 150 heads of government to the U.N. Headquarters in New York, where as every year, General Assembly debate will cover practically all international subjects — 164 are on the agenda. Debate will last until December.

Pope John Paul II is scheduled to address the Assembly on Oct. 5 during a visit to New York.

Starting Sept. 25, several dozen foreign ministers will participate in a general debate that will include the world's ongoing conflicts, human rights issues, development, disarmament and nuclear testing.

France, as well as China, are awaiting resolutions condemning their recent nuclear tests. A number of

governments, including Australia, Japan and Chile, have spoken of their support for a resolution condemning the testing, and numerous other opponents of nuclear weapons will use the occasion as a sounding board.

Former Portuguese Deputy Prime Minister Diogo Freitas Do Amaral will preside.

The end of the status quo in the former Yugoslavia, with the weakening of the Bosnian Serbs and growing chances for peace, will be a main topic of discussion.

Russia has used the recent North Atlantic Treaty Organisation air strikes on Bosnian Serbs to lament that the United Nations has lost control over the operations to bring the Serbs into line, in what it calls a violation of U.N. Security Council functions.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic will speak before the General Assembly on Sept. 26. On that day, the foreign ministers of the 15 countries represented at the U.N. Security Council

will meet and adopt a joint declaration, diplomats say.

The 50th anniversary of the General Assembly meeting will be clouded by the financial picture of the United Nations, whose belt is being tightened by the U.S. administration which thinks the world body could do with some spend-thrift measures.

It is certain that the question of enlarging the U.N. Security Council will be discussed. It currently has five permanent members — Britain, China, France, the United States and Russia. While almost no one agrees on how many or which countries should be admitted, Japan and Germany are among the most anxious contenders, and Italy their strongest opposition.

But India, Pakistan, Brazil and Argentina have also made cases for entry, either based on economic might or regional representation. Their candidacy is sure to be a hot topic for debate, diplomats say.

Paper: Duchess set to move back with Andrew

LONDON (AP) — The Duchess of York may move back to the estate she and Prince Andrew received as a wedding present, a newspaper report said Sunday — and that could lead to a reunion.

"He wants me back, I love him and we both love the girls," the News Of The World quoted the former Sarah Ferguson as telling unidentified friends. "I don't know what's stopping us."

The newspaper said she and Prince Andrew had picked out a stable block on the Sunninghill Park estate to convert into a house for her and their two daughters, Princess Beatrice, 7, and Princess Eugenie, 5.

Queen Elizabeth II gave Prince Andrew the estate in

southern England as a wedding present when he married in 1986. The couple has been separated since 1992, and the duchess was forced to move out of a house she was renting last year when the landlords opted to sell it.

Prince Andrew still lives in the estate's main house.

Prince Andrew and the duchess were due to discuss particulars this week, the newspapers quoted her friends as saying.

The two have been seen in public with increasing frequency. The whole family vacationed in Spain last month, and a photograph of the couple sharing a friendly laugh at a charity golf tournament made front pages.

The fact that they are no longer expected to perform

official royal duties — the queen took them off the "civil list," the royal payroll, in 1992 — has eased the pressure on their marriage, the newspaper said.

Prince Andrew is now supported by his mother's private income, and the duchess makes an independent living writing children's books.

The report said the duchess' plan to reunite with her husband had the support of Princess Diana, who is estranged from Prince Andrew's older brother, Prince Charles.

Nonetheless, the reunion may go no further than the family living together on the same estate, the friend said.

Astronauts stay warm; new duds work

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — They did their best to get chilly in the freezing vacuum of space, staying in the shadow of the shuttle.

But to NASA's delight, Endeavour's two space-walking astronauts kept warm Saturday thanks to new heated gloves, thermal socks, boot liners and toasty long underwear.

"Couldn't be more comfortable," Michael Gernhardt said. "These gloves are working great. I'm warm."

Gernhardt and James Voss spent nearly an hour each on the end of the robot arm, raised 30 feet above the cargo bay in the coldest possible position to mimic a space station construction site. The temperature dipped down to minus 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

One by one, the space-walkers remained motionless on the robot arm in an attempt to get cold — to no avail. Voss, in fact, had to turn off the fingertip heaters in his gloves at one point.

The two men were just as comfortable bustling around the cargo bay, although the thermometer down there registered a mere minus 75.

NASA wants as much practice as possible working in this deep-freeze environment before construction of an international space station begins in two years.

Officials estimate American astronauts will have to perform 200 to 250 hours of spacewalks per year from 1999 through 2001 to assemble and maintain the huge, orbiting outpost. That's four to five times the amount performed in 1993, NASA's peak spacewalking year because of the Hubble space telescope repair mission.

Saturday's successful spacewalk 212 miles above earth eased some of the worries.

Unlike NASA's previous spacewalk, cut short by astronauts' freezing fingers, Saturday's excursion lasted the full 6 hours.

"I have something to smile about," Voss said once he was back inside the crew cabin.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) sped up production of the battery-heated gloves following February's frigid spacewalk and made other improvements to the 10.4 million spacesuits. Russian cosmonauts don't seem to suffer from cold hands during spacewalks because of their thicker, but more cumbersome, gloves.

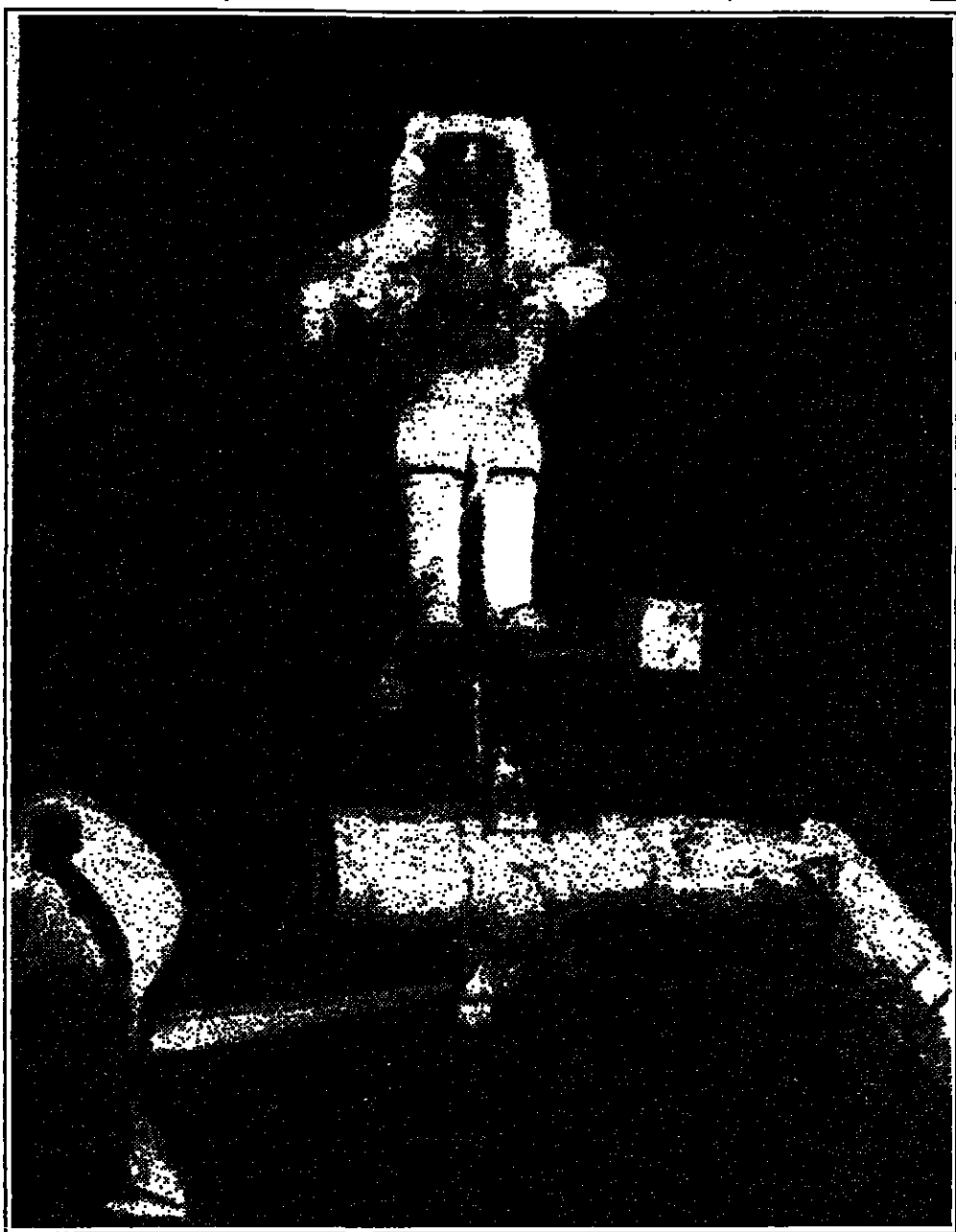
As for station-style work, neither Gernhardt nor Voss had any trouble handling an aluminum shield similar to what will cover the International Space Station to protect against tiny meteorites, or rolling up a sheet of thermal insulation.

They used a variety of tools to loosen and tighten fasteners and connectors at a work bench, all designed for station use. They also read placards from varying distances to test their improved helmet lights. It almost sounded as though they were visiting the eye doctor.

It was the first spacewalk for Gernhardt and Voss — deliberate on NASA's part. The space agency wants to increase its spacewalking expertise and thus is spreading these station-practice spacewalks around as much as possible.

Four more practice spacewalks are planned, with the next one during Endeavour's next flight in January. As for the current 11-day mission, it's due to end Monday morning with a Kennedy Space Centre landing.

Saturday was the last major job in orbit for Endeavour's five astronauts. They spent the past week reeling a pair of bulky science satellites in and out of the cargo bay.



Astronaut James Voss waits on the space shuttle Endeavour's robot arm evaluating modifications on his space suit (AFP photo)

French nuclear tests expected to dominate IAEA conference

VIENNA (AFP) — France's controversial resumption of nuclear weapons tests in the South Pacific will be high on the political agenda of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) general conference opening here Monday.

Of the 122 IAEA member countries, several have said they will take advantage of the five-day Vienna conference to express their opposition to the new series of underground tests on Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia.

A regional group comprising Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Mexico and Chile has tabled a draft resolution expressing regret at the resumption of the tests, diplomats here said.

The text argues that the tests are unhelpful to the process of international disarmament and to the treaty of nuclear non-proliferation and that they contradict the spirit of the future nuclear test ban treaty.

The resolution will be put to the vote at the general conference.

The delegates will also

discuss a French request to the IAEA to send a scientific mission to Mururoa to test for radioactivity, once the series of nuclear tests begun on Sept. 5 is completed.

Eleven IAEA countries called Wednesday at a closed-door meeting of the IAEA Governors' Council, for the right to monitor the results of any new study of radioactivity in the South Pacific.

Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Ireland also said they should be allowed to decide the conditions under which this new survey will be carried out.

In a report published at the beginning of September by its Laboratory of Marine Environment in Monaco, the IAEA said there was no radioactive contamination of the marine environment around Mururoa.

The laboratory surveyed the area around the atoll last year from Sept. 26 to Oct. 10 — two years after the last French nuclear test.

Other issues to be discussed at the conference include the situation in Iraq after numerous United Nations and IAEA inspections aimed at preventing Iraq developing weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

IAEA inspections of nuclear facilities in North Korea will also be on the agenda. IAEA inspectors are permanently in North Korea to monitor the "freeze" of nuclear installations decreed by Pyongyang under an agreement with the United States.

North Korea agreed to halt its facilities in return for assistance in replacing its old-fashioned graphite reactors which produce large quantities of weapons-grade uranium, with safer light-water reactors.

A special scientific project on the rehabilitation of the environment and the management of nuclear waste and on making nuclear reactors safer, will be organised on the sidelines of this 39th IAEA conference.

The conference opening Monday will include a message from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and a speech by Director-General Hans Blix.

Huge typhoon batters Tokyo area

TOKYO (R) — Typhoon Oscar, one of the strongest to hit the Tokyo region since World War II, buffeted Japan Sunday, forcing the cancellation of 200 airline flights and closing roads and railway lines.

Winds of up to 150 kilometres per hour lashed the Pacific coast, the Meteorological Agency said, but no major damage was reported as waves crashed against concrete wave breaks.

Flights from Haneda, Tokyo's domestic airport, were suspended and a spokesman for the international airport at Narita told Reuters nine departures and nine arrivals had been cancelled there.

Kyodo News Agency said a squid fishing boat with three crew had gone missing off the main southern island of Kyushu due to high waves.

It also said that two people had suffered minor injuries in Shizuoka and Kanagawa, prefectures west of Tokyo, and that six houses in the area had been damaged. Some 5,200 households in prefectures surrounding Tokyo experienced blackouts due to damaged power lines, it said.

At 10 a.m. local time (0100 GMT), the centre of the typhoon was about 200 kilometres south of Tokyo, and heading north-northwest at 50 kph (30 mph), according to the Meteorological Agency.

At Miyake-Jima, an island south of Tokyo, a gust of 199 kph (125 mph) was recorded in the morning, and Choshi, a town northeast of Tokyo, saw a gust of 150 kph (94 mph), the agency said. The biggest gusts in central Tokyo were over 100 kph (65 mph).

Heavy rain fell in Tokyo and Yokohama and some parts of the region were expected to see up to 500 millimetres (20 inches) by Monday morning.

Some Tokyo department stores said they had only 10 per cent of their usual customers for a Sunday morning, according to NHK Television.

Railway lines reduced or cancelled train services, and bullet trains reduced speed over some routes. Ferry services off the Tokyo coast were also forced to stop operations.

Residents of the capital, Dhaka, woke up late with no hurry to go to their offices, children enjoyed a holiday with schools shut while transports remained off the streets, police and witnesses said.

Sunday is a working day in Bangladesh.

Thousands of police and paramilitary troops enforcing tight security in the strike-bound city of nine million ducked under roadside sheds or under trees as moderate rain swept the capital early Sunday.

"It's the dullist but most successful strike," said a police officer commanding a

platoon of specially trained riot police in the city's Ramna area.

He said fewer rickshaws ventured onto the streets Sunday apparently for lack of passengers. "I guess half of the population have either left the city on an enforced holiday or stayed home," said the officer who asked not to be named.

Many government officials also abandoned plans to walk to their offices after pro-strike activists stripped several of them almost nude Saturday, police said.

Reporters in major Bangladeshi cities including the port of Chittagong and the southern industrial city of Khulna said the strike was "absolutely total" after the first 24 hours.

"It's a spontaneous stoppage. There is little effort to enforce the strike with only

a few pickets here and there and the number of explosions much less than during previous strikes," one Chittagong official said.

The 72-hour strike, which began at 6 a.m. Saturday, was called by major opposition parties, including the Awami League, in their ongoing effort to force Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down and allow early elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

Mrs. Khaleda, elected in 1991 in what were billed as Bangladesh's first free polls, has refused to bow out.

Nearly 60 people were injured Saturday as pickets attacked a train at Narayanganj near Dhaka. Six others were wounded when a bomb, packed with metal fragments, exploded in the capital, witnesses said.

Newspapers Sunday said up to 200 people had been injured in sporadic violence across the country on the first day of the stoppage.

Trains, buses and ferries mostly did not move Sunday, transport officials said. But airline flights were expected to operate, they said.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, arch-rival of Mrs. Khaleda, urged the prime minister Sunday to give up her "crazy power" and hand over power to the chief justice before the country was pushed into bigger turmoil.

"People have given a clear verdict against your government by spontaneously responding to strikes. You must realise it now," Mrs. Hasina said in a newspaper statement.

Balladur comeback adds to Juppe's problems

PARIS (AFP) — Failed presidential candidate Edouard Balladur is set to make a political comeback this week that could constitute a considerable nuisance for French Prime Minister Alain Juppe and his government.

Former Prime Minister Balladur, who was defeated by his "friend of 30 years" Jacques Chirac in presidential polls last May, was standing for re-election to the French National Assembly Sunday in by-elections along with seven of his ex-ministers.

Most of them backed Mr. Balladur over Mr. Chirac in the presidential battle and their return to parliament could make life difficult for Mr. Juppe, who faces a crucial test Wednesday when he presents the country's 1996 budget.

Three of Mr. Balladur's closest ministers were also standing Sunday — his presidential campaign spokesman Nicolas Sarkozy, the former budget minister, former Development Aid Minister Bernard Debre and

ex-Transport Minister Bernard Bosson. Mr. Balladur and Mr. Sarkozy were standing in safe seats, the former in Paris and the latter in Neuilly-sur-Seine, a western suburb of the capital, and hoped for election in the first round Sunday. But an expected high abstention rate could force them into a second round poll on Sept. 24.

Other Balladur supporters, including former Defence Minister Francois Leotard and Alain Lamassoure (European affairs), were expected to be elected Sunday after being forced into run-offs the previous week by record abstention rates — 70 per cent in some constituencies.

Under the French electoral system, ministers are obliged to hand over their parliamentary seats to substitutes, who must themselves resign if the ministers lose their portfolios, provoking by-elections.

Mr. Balladur returned to the hustings last week pledging to back "the unity and the cohesion" of the ruling

conservative coalition, consisting of the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic (RPR) and the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF).

Mr. Sarkozy said there was "no alternative to the success of Jacques Chirac," but Mr. Balladur and his supporters were expected to provide only grudging support for Mr. Juppe, laced with plenty of criticisms.

The presidential battle left wounds in the conservative coalition that have scarcely healed. Politicians who backed Mr. Balladur were excluded from ministerial portfolios while Mr. Juppe has been criticised for concentrating power in his own hands by appointing lightweight to the defence and foreign affairs ministries.

In addition, he sacked the only heavyweight in his government last August — Finance Minister Alain Madelin — leaving himself in control of another key sector.

Mr. Balladur's Socialist opponent in his Paris constituency, 37-year-old Lau-

rence Dumont, said the former prime minister's main aim in seeking re-election was "to place himself at the head of a rebellion against Jacques Chirac."

Criticism of Mr. Juppe will be easy. The prime minister is faced with the next-to-impossible task of keeping Mr. Chirac's expensive campaign promises — slashing France's nearly 12 per cent unemployment while cutting the budget deficit in order to keep the country on course for European Monetary Union with the aim of cutting the deficit to three per cent of GDP by 1997.

On Wednesday Mr. Juppe's 1996 budget will be presented to a cabinet meeting and the prime minister will address a meeting of parliamentarians of the ruling coalition on the budget and on his plans to reform the social security system, whose deficit is likely to reach 180 billion francs (\$36 billion) by the end of 1996 if no action is taken.

Marilyn batters Caribbean; heads out to sea

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Hurricane Marilyn toppled a four-story apartment block on St. Thomas, trapping 40 to 50 people, and killed three other people as it ripped through the Caribbean Saturday before moving out to open sea.

The U.S. Coast Guard conducted sea rescue operations late Saturday in St. Thomas Harbour in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where some 70 large boats were destroyed and 60 to 70 people reported to be on life boats or clinging to debris.

Winds of 110 mph (176 kph) battered the eastern point of Puerto Rico, sending 11,000 people into shelters and damaging or destroying 500 homes before the storm moved out to sea.

Forecasters at the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said that at 11 p.m. EDT (0300 GMT) Marilyn was 290 kilometres north-northwest of San Juan moving north-west at about 10 mph (16 kph).

It appeared likely the hurricane, which was moving into open water with sustained winds of 115 mph (185 kph), would skirt the eastern seaboard of the United States.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico, a U.S. Territory, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and ordered federal aid to help recovery efforts.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent 200 people with emergency communication, power generation and other support equipment to St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Main power lines were down in St. Croix and some structural damage was reported, including the island's water treatment plant.

FEMA had no word on attempts to rescue individuals trapped in the apartment building in St. Thomas, where 70 to 80 per cent of homes and buildings sus-

tained heavy damage and many people were seriously injured.

Approximately 4,000 rolls of plastic sheeting were sent to affected areas and provisions had been made for delivery of food, water, blankets, and portable toilets, FEMA said.

U.S. Coast Guard officials in San Juan said 100 patients were airlifted to Puerto Rico from St. Thomas's hospital, which suffered blown out windows and flooding when battered by 127 mph (204 kph) winds and heavy rains Friday.

St. Thomas lost electrical power and telephone lines Friday and its desalination plant was knocked out. Stores sold out of batteries, ice and other supplies and the island was placed under curfew, officials said.

On St. Croix, trailer parks were destroyed and roofs were ripped off many houses, officials said.

Airports in St. Thomas and St. Croix were opened for emergency and military

flights late Saturday while the San Juan, Puerto Rico, airport was reported to be fully operational.

Some 424 shelters housing 12,538 people were opened in Puerto Rico, where Marilyn caused landslides on two main highways and authorities sent disaster teams to the small islands of Vieques and Culebra to assess damage.

Police were deployed in Puerto Rico's main commercial centres to stop looters.

Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rosello estimated at a news conference that 70 per cent of the homes on Culebra were destroyed or significantly damaged.

"The wind was very strong, it sounded like a cat screaming," Ramona Carillo of Culebra told the San Juan Star.

Mr. Rosello said 80,000 people on Puerto Rico remained without water and 50,000 without electricity. Three highways remained closed because of landslides and debris.

Suu Kyi: Be patient in bringing democracy to Burma

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Suppressed Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is asking her country to be patient in bringing democracy to Burma as she tries to cooperate with the junta that imprisoned her, according to an interview published Sunday.

In an interview in the Malaysian newspaper the Sunday Star, Ms. Suu Kyi said the goal of her National League for Democracy (NLD), formed in 1988 remains the same: "To bring democracy to Burma."

In the interview, given at her residence in Rangoon last week, Ms. Suu Kyi, who was released from house

arrest on July 10, said she was aware some people were growing impatient and waiting for her to act.

"There should be expectations, but it should be tempered with an intelligent observation of the situation," she said. "The people have to learn to control their impatience," Ms. Suu Kyi said.

The current military junta, called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), refused to hand over power to Ms. Suu Kyi's opposition party in 1990, when the NLD decisively won Burma's first multiparty elections in 30 years.

Instead, the junta arrested her and other opposition

members and renamed the country Myanmar.

Ms. Suu Kyi said that since her release, she has been very busy consolidating the NLD and meeting with political, nonpolitical and student groups.

"The people all want democracy and a system in keeping with the will of the people," she said.

She said she is prepared to work with the junta to achieve a democratic government.

"The military did say their aim was to bring democracy to Burma. So if we have a common aim, then we should work together," she said, adding without elaboration that she has a "line of

communication" with the ruling SLORC.

Ms. Suu Kyi said she and her colleagues have no bitterness over their imprisonment "because we managed to strengthen ourselves with all the problems we had to face and the sufferings we had been subjected to."

She has no intention of going to her husband's home in Britain or elsewhere because the government might not let her back into Burma. "It does not make me feel restricted because my work is here (in Burma)," she said.

She said it was not necessarily the NLD's intention to obtain power in its efforts to bring democracy to Burma.

Bangladesh remains paralysed by marathon strike

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh was Sunday in the tight grip of a crippling strike for the second day, the latest opposition effort to oust the government and force early elections.

Residents of the capital, Dhaka, woke up late with no hurry to go to their offices, children enjoyed a holiday with schools shut while transports remained off the streets, police and witnesses said.

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Lost in the diaspora

THE FAILURE of last week's meeting by the four-party committee on the displaced persons coincided with the expulsion by Libya of hundreds of Palestinians to demonstrate in unambiguous terms the pressing need for an equitable and quick solution to the plight of Palestinian refugees. What the failure of the meeting did was highlight the intransigence of Israel in addressing one of the most significant dimensions of its occupation of Arab lands. The dilemma of the Palestinians who were expelled from Libya and who have been stranded in the waters of the sea and the sands of the desert says volumes about the duty of the Arab countries and the international community in putting pressure on Israel to agree to a workable solution to the refugees and displaced persons' problems.

U.N. resolutions and international law prescribe solutions to these issues. Israel is legally obliged to allow for the return of the displaced persons and to recognise the right of the refugees to either return or compensation. Hiding behind the pretexts that what is lacking is a mechanism for the repatriation of the displaced persons defies logic. If the right of return is recognised, the mechanism for attaining this right becomes a technical matter which experts can settle. But obviously it is more than technicalities that define the Israeli position. The Jewish state wants to minimise the number of people who can return to their land. Thus procrastinating is one tool that Israel is using to force the Palestinians and host countries of displaced persons into making concessions. That effort should not be allowed to succeed.

But until the issue is resolved, the Arab and other countries hosting refugees have a responsibility to provide them with the decent life to which all human beings are entitled. Nothing can justify the refusal of some Arab countries to host the Palestinians who were expelled from Libya, especially when those Palestinians carry travel documents that were issued by them. Leaving the Palestinians to suffer under the heat of the desert or floating aimlessly in the sea is a cruelty that can be neither understood nor condoned.

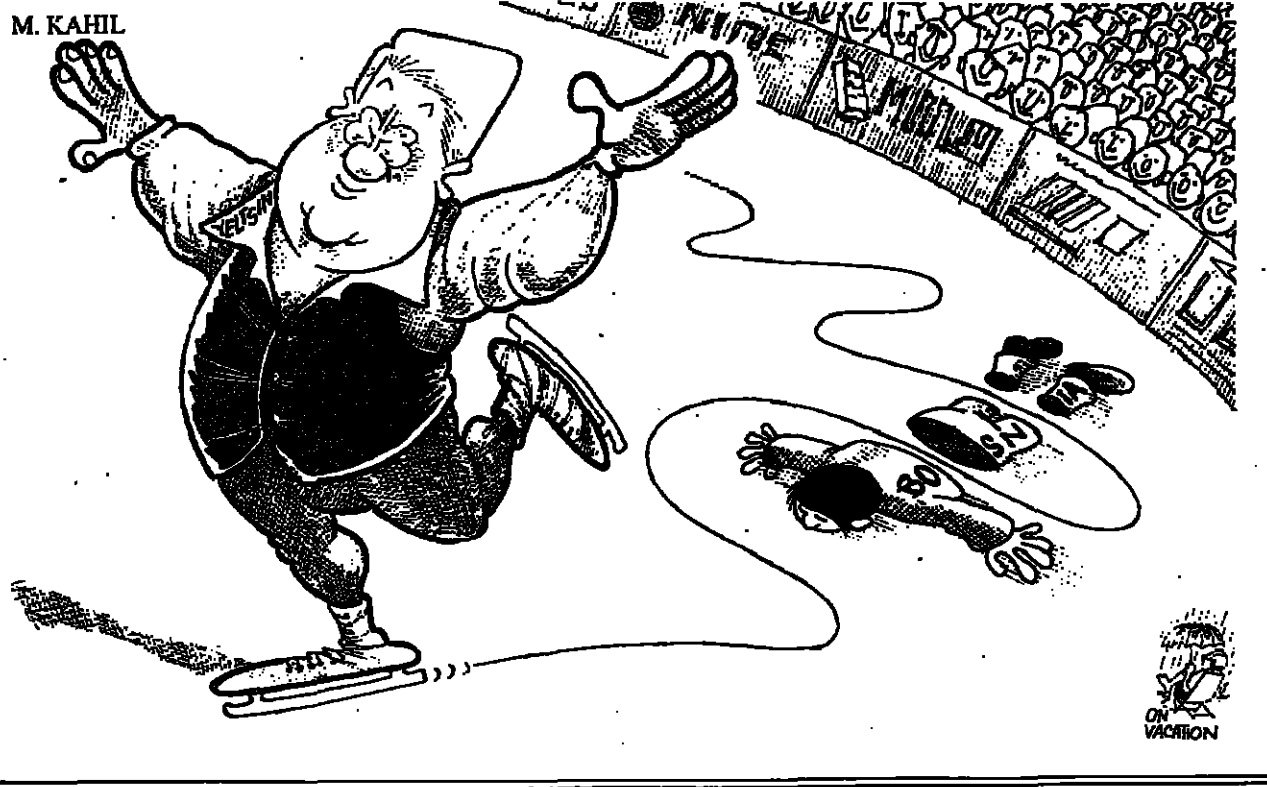
The only acceptable long-term solution to the plight of Palestinian refugees and displaced persons is a recognition of their right to return and finding the means to exercise this right. But until this happens, there is no reason why refugees who have been residing in some countries for decades should not enjoy the citizenship of the host states. This would in no way jeopardise the chances for an acceptable solution to their tragedy. When such a solution is finally found, the Palestinians can choose whether they want to go back to their homeland or stay in their countries of residence.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A JORDANIAN in Al Ra'i daily said Sunday that except for a column, Arab countries are unwilling to accept Palestinians evicted from Libya. Fahed Al Faneh said that Jordan has been accepting Palestinians expelled from Palestine and Kuwait and welcomed expellees from Libya with temporary Jordanian passports and it has been doing so out of humanitarian reasons. Likewise, the Bosnian refugees have been accepted by several European countries because they are Europeans and out of humanitarian considerations, he added. Saying that Syria, and Lebanon have refused to accept the Palestinians who were expelled from Libya, the writer said that this stand is causing additional suffering to the Palestinians and creating new tragedies for them although the Palestinians have no ambition to create a substitute homeland for themselves in the Arab countries. Perhaps the Libyan leader has resorted to such move to take revenge on President Yasser Arafat for concluding a deal with the Israelis on the self-rule areas and perhaps the Libyan expulsion order was taken in a fit of anger on the part of President Muammar Qadhafi or even to please certain world powers, said the writer. He said that by expelling the Palestinians, who are stranded at sea and in the desert, the Libyan leadership has committed an inhuman act tantamount to executing thousands of unfortunate Palestinian families.

COMMENTING ON the Ministry of Public Works' declared intention of charging road tolls on cars using certain highways, a writer in Al Dustour said the collection should be solely used for the purpose of maintaining roads. Mohammad Subeishi said that the public can be charged for using the roads if the roads are of high and international specifications and are provided with various services. The writer said that should the system be applied, the Ministry of Public Works is expected to follow modern techniques as to controlling the collection of toll and in guaranteeing emergency assistance to the road users in case of accidents.

M. KAHIL



Why liberalism isn't allowed to die

By Michael Wines

WASHINGTON — You probably think liberalism dried up and blew away years ago. There was George McGovern, but Richard Nixon clobbered him. Then Spiro Agnew worked liberals over really good, before he quit. Then Ronald Reagan, in '84, had Walter Mondale for lunch. Michael S. Dukakis, he actually said "I'm a liberal" — this was on television — and even though he added right away that he was a Truman and Kennedy-type liberal and not some dope-smoking bomb-thrower who took over Berkeley, he got clobbered worse than McGovern.

Bill Clinton ran against liberalism, and is still in the doghouse for being too liberal. Hubert Humphrey is dead.

You probably think liberalism is, too. Boy, are you wrong. It is living the good life in, get this, the hearts and minds of conservatives.

This may seem strange, because conservatives were kind of like the big comet that wiped out the liberal dinosaurs in the elections last fall. But try to find a conservative this summer, especially one looking for a bigger job, who isn't reading "Jurassic Park" over a bullhorn and warning that liberals have been cloned and are scaring the living daylights out of people.

Look at Senator Bob Dole, the candidate for president, from Kansas. Last week, he told the American Legion that the "liberal academic elite" is wrecking American culture by letting schools teach immigrant kids in their own languages instead of English and by rewriting history books to "glorify other cultures" and wage "war on traditional American values."

"The keys to our unity are under attack from our

government and from intellectual elites who seem embarrassed by America," he said. "What we see as opportunity, they see as oppression. Where we see a proud past, they see a legacy of shame. Where we see a proud past, they see a legacy of shame. What we hold as moral truth, they call intolerance."

This was pretty rough stuff, but Mr. Dole is still new at this. Newt Gingrich, who was conservative before conservative was cool, socked liberals nine times in one speech to Republicans this summer, including a poke at "liberal goo-gooism."

This month Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, who wants to be president, called Mr. Clinton "the last president of the liberal era." This even though Mr. Clinton had just showed that he was not, either, by telling a story about how liberals used to think people on welfare shouldn't have to work — hah! — "but now almost nobody does." Think that, he meant.

Republicans even use the L-word against other Republicans. Pete Wilson, the California governor, said last week that Mr. Dole shouldn't be president because he makes "concessions to Senate liberals." So Mr. Dole unloaded on Mr. Wilson and called him "one of the most liberal Republicans ever to seek national office." And Lamar Alexander, trailing Mr. Wilson in the White House race, through one of his campaign gofers, called him "a big-taxing, big-spending liberal Republican."

Anyway, you get the idea. Mr. Reagan attacked tax-and-spend liberals and turned politics upside-down doing it, but, to be fair, there were a lot more liberals around then. Now liberals are scarce as chicken lips, but conservatives

sound like Reagan cubed. Hard to figure, on the face of things. But here are a few theories as to why both political parties think this all may make perfect sense.

Liberals are still in charge. Conservatives may hold more seats in Congress and sell more books. But the big Federal bureaucracy that liberals built is still there, and until it is blown up, the job isn't done. This is why Mr. Dole warned that anything the government touches is "ripe for infection."

In this view, modern politics is like the old movie "Alien," where the conservatives are Sigourney Weaver, trying to run a tight spaceship, but the crew — they're the voters, see — is in danger of being taken over by these snake-like creatures that have been hiding in the ceiling all along.

You do not have to believe liberals are snake-like to see that conservatives believe government is the last stronghold of liberalism and its legacy. And many voters agree, even though they don't want to give up the liberal Medicare and welfare and retirement benefits that are most of government's business these days.

Sleeping bears

"In every post-election poll since 1968, the major grievance people have about the Democratic Party is that they see it as a top-down, big bureaucratic entity," said Ted Van Dyk, a Democratic strategist who was a Humphrey adviser. "We're all seen as little Lyndon Johnsons, the people who passed out all the stuff that has to be revised because it got out of control."

Conservatives need a good enemy. It is tough to run a revolution without something revolting around

to overturn, says Ken Kashigian, a California Republican strategist. The liberal threat is and insecurity blanket.

"Republicans aren't so used to controlling Congressional committees and the agenda, and I think part of this is that they're afraid all of this is going to be suddenly taken away," he said.

This doesn't mean that the liberal threat does not exist. Mr. Kashigian said that it does, likening it to a big bear hibernating in the woods, not snakes in a space-ship. "The bear may not be lurking around in February," he said. "But he's hiding. He's waiting for the spring thaw."

This is politics, dummy. Maybe the liberal threat is snakes, or maybe it is a bear. Or maybe it is a Hollywood dinosaur, trotted out to give everybody a few safe goosebumps before being hauled backstage for another few years. Whatever, to win primaries a candidate has to appeal to party diehards, who actually care enough to vote. And most diehards care because they are at war against some alien ideology.

"When you're talking to Republican primary voters, you're talking to Republican activists, and Republican activists have had it with liberalism. When you talk to them, you have to light their fire," said Peggy Noonan, Mr. Reagan's speechwriter. "Just as you're for motherhood and apple pie, it's important to remember that we are united against liberalism. Even though there are no liberals anymore."

Oh, one other thing. It worked for the Democrats. "We ran against Herbert Hoover for 50 years," Mr. Van Dyk said. "Some guys are still running against Hoover."

The New York Times

Portugal's socialists see power within their grasp

By Richard Waddington
Reuters

LISBON — For the first time in a decade, Portugal's opposition Socialist Party has a real chance of returning to power in elections on October 1.

Like Germany's Social Democrats and Britain's Labour Party the centre-left in Portugal suffered years of electoral eclipse, shut out by a combination of a conservative mood gripping Europe into the 1980s and a powerful ruling figure.

But Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva, who along with Germany's Helmut Kohl is one of Europe's longest-serving heads of government, is not leading the centre-right Social Democratic Party (PSD) into battle this time.

The change of guard, with the PSD leadership passing to the less charismatic Fernando Nogueira, the cold but authoritative Cavaco Silva's long-time number two, seems to have helped nudge the political barometer the socialists' way.

Most polls put them ahead of the PSD and even the surveys that say it is too close to call show a personal preference amongst voters for socialist leader Antonio Guterres.

An opinion poll published by the TSF Radio and the Diario de Noticias newspaper three weeks before the vote gave both parties 35 per cent. But 47 per cent of those

questioned thought Mr. Guterres would make the better prime minister against only 37 per cent for Mr. Nogueira, the former defence minister.

"I would not bet my mortgage on them but they (the socialists) have got their campaign off to a great start," said one Lisbon diplomat. "Right now they would seem to have their noses in front."

In 1991 the Socialist Party was humiliated by Mr. Cavaco Silva as he rode the wave of new prosperity that followed Portugal's entry to the European Union in the mid-1980s.

The socialists collected just 29 per cent of the vote, one of their worst performances since democracy arrived in Portugal with the 1974 revolution, while the PSD took more than 50 per cent for the second successive election.

Since then they have elected a new leader, worked hard to brighten up their image and come up with a set of policies to reassure the cautious Portuguese that there will be no big lurch to the left.

The central problem (for the socialists) is to convince people that the party has changed its spots," said another European diplomat based in Lisbon.

"People don't want some old-style Socialist Party which moves away from the enterprise culture that Cavaco Silva built."

The party's campaign has stressed a commitment to the European Union, still a popular cause with the Portuguese, and a determination to stick to economic targets on the budget and inflation that must be met to ensure a place in the EU's plans for a future monetary union.

But it has sought to serve the tough economic medicine with a smile, promising action to improve Portugal's education system, particularly at pre-school level where the country lags behind its major European partners.

It is also committed to introducing a so-called "minimum wage" around 17,000 escudos (\$110) a month which would be paid to the very poor with no other visible source of income.

"We offer change but no rupture. This is no leap in the dark," said parliamentary candidate Antonio Vitorino who took a leading role in drawing up the programme.

"We have got rid of statist views and substituted the market values of the economy with social equity," he said.

Unlike last time when the economy was only just starting to slow after years of growth of around 4.5 per cent per year, the election takes place when the recession of the early 1990s is still a vivid memory.

The first four years of Mr. Cavaco Silva were undoubtedly a success but the

second term did not turn out as he promised. Now people want a change," said Mr. Vitorino.

But increasingly Portuguese elections are becoming virtual presidential contests, focused heavily on the personality and style of the party leaders.

And this could prove a winner, or a loser, for the power-hungry socialists. Mr. Guterres, a 45-year-old engineer, bubbles with ideas and confidence. Unlike Mr. Nogueira, who built his political career inside the party machine, Mr. Guterres is a member of parliament fully at ease in public debate or at election rallies.

In a country that has traditionally respected strong, austere leadership, his effervescence and speed of tongue have been branded as glibness.

There have been occasional public "gaffes" to add to the doubts.

One such lapse occurred during a television debate when Mr. Guterres said longer prison terms for drugs dealers would be one of his government's main weapons in a promised war on crime.

When asked, he could not say how long jail sentences currently were for drugs offences.

"Sometimes he gives the impression of being too clever by half and the Portuguese don't like that," one diplomat said.

Human Rights File

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

The right to speak your mother tongue

I WAS naturally taken by surprise when I first heard that certain Republican quarters are pushing for making English the official language of the U.S.

I had presumed all along that English had been the official language of the country ever since its creation. What seems to trouble many Americans is the creeping use of languages other than English even for official use. It has become evident that in California, for example, the use of Spanish has superseded English in many areas as the working language for conducting even official business.

With wave after wave of new immigrants flooding the country and insisting on retaining their cultural roots and languages, the country began to look more like a hybrid than a unified country with a distinct culture and political heritage. This, many Americans are now saying, is certainly divisive and could end up becoming a time bomb that could destroy the nation. Such voices draw heavily on the experiences of Canada where the policy of promoting diversity has meant the near breakup of the country along ethnic and language lines. Instead of promoting diversity, many Americans are calling for the only official language of monolingualism by making English the only official language of their nations. If new immigrants wish to speak their mother tongue and retain their unique culture and heritage, they should have opted, so the argument goes, to stay in their homeland instead of emigrating to another country which admittedly has its own unique national culture and heritage.

I must say that I personally agree with the American argument that there must be one official language for their country as a tool to encourage the establishment of a national culture and the forging of a unified nation. If people choose to leave their original country for whatever reason, they owe it to their new country to become integrated into its mainstream by speaking its language and adapting to the new cultural, economic and political milieu as quickly as possible. There is no sense in people emigrating to the U.S., Canada or Australia and insisting on maintaining their original identities.

People have a natural right to be proud of their own language and heritage, but the best way to express this attachment is to stay in their country of origin no matter how big temptations to live somewhere else permanently are.

I see therefore no problem with the desire of many Americans to make their language the official and working language of all the peoples who make America their adopted nation. We are not talking here about minority rights of original minorities living in a certain country. Minorities have certain rights to their language, religion and culture and these rights are well-protected under various human rights instruments and conventions.

People emigrating to other countries cannot be viewed as minorities in the sense the term is used in human rights treaties. It would be interesting to pursue this point in human rights committees so that the international community would benefit from their ruling. I am not aware of any such judgement by any international human rights body, but I presume that when the issue is brought up, there would be a decision against granting emigrants absolute right to use their respective languages in their adopted country, especially when it comes to conducting official business.

Juppe austerity gives trade unions cause to rally members

By John Follain
Reuters

PARIS — The pioneers of France's trade union movement turn a weary hundred this week, grateful that austerity dictated by the conservative government has given them a cause with which to rally their dwindling membership.

Both the communist-led Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) and the splinter, left-leaning Force Ouvriere (FO) union had planned ritual anniversary celebrations in the city of Limoges, where the impassioned congress that founded their movement took place.

But Prime Minister Alain Juppe's pledge of a tight rein on the wages of five million civil servants next year has abruptly changed the tone of the anniversary.

In Limoges, a hastily-called protest march has been grafted on to a period costume pageant tracing unionist victories since the September 1895 congress.

"The celebration was going to be festive. Now it's going to be a day of protest. We will take the anniversary opportunity to stage a strong demonstration," said FO official Jean Jayer, in charge of the celebration.

France's leading unions — the CGT and FO are among the most militant — have threatened to stage a strike in mid-October if Mr. Juppe does not relent.

Marc Blondel, the combative FO leader, was quick to raise the banner of workers' rights. He accused Mr. Juppe of betraying promises made during the spring presidential election campaign and branded him a reactionary.

Behind the fighting talk, however, is a labour movement that is shedding many of its members, partly because of the death of traditional bastions such as coal, steel and shipyards.

Although unions have traditionally suffered from weak membership — save for 1936 when the popular front instituted paid holidays and for 1945 when the war ended — the ratio of paid-up members as a share of the workforce has shrunk by two thirds since 1974 to eight per cent.

The CGT, which boasted more than two million members in 1976, recently acknowledged that it had fallen to an historic low of 630,000 — relegating it to second place behind the pro-socialist CFDT.

FO clings to its claimed one million members. "In saying that, I lie no more and no less than others," says Mr. Blondel. Observers put the real number closer to 400,000 at best.

Reflecting further apathy on work-related issues, French wage-earners abstain in ever-greater numbers in elections for workers' councils and labour courts.

"Trade unions have been hit by the loss of their industrial bastions and the crisis of communism," said labour historian Michel Dreyfus, author of a book on the CGT. "But they have also suffered from the rise in unemployment and part-time work, and the privatisation drive which has changed the public sector where unions were often strong."

The once-powerful labour federations are also paying the price for the divisions that have plagued the movement since World War II, many of them fuelled by outdated ideological conflicts.

CORRECTION

IN THE article "Women and China — majic of Beijing '95" (Jordan Times, Sept. 17) the last sentence in the 11th paragraph should have read: But one form of communications, the most silent of all, was heard above all shouts and reached beyond all pamphlets. The first sentence in the following paragraph should have read: These were the banners woven by women in rural and urban areas all over the planet, entrusting their toil and their art to carry their aspirations to the forum.

House panel report sparks confrontation

(Continued from page 1)

every citizen has a constitutional right. The Constitution, and laws protect these rights," said Sharif Zeid.

"Any person who feels he has been done injustice should resort to the Inspection and Control Bureau and if he is unsatisfied (with its handling of the issue) he should resort to court," prime minister told law makers.

But to go on making accusations, said Sharif Zeid, will only harm national unity and create disturbances in society.

The committee, whose report was read out at the house by leftist deputy Haddadin, said that the government should not make any arrests without obtaining a warrant from the prosecutor general.

IAF deputy Hamman Said

called for the release of detainees he claimed are in Jordanian jails while his colleague Abdul Munem Abu Zant urged opposition deputies to resign from Parliament in protest against the government's alleged violations of the law.

Sharif Zeid said he has issued instruction which will guarantee that no citizen is arrested before obtaining permission from the prosecutor general.

"But responding to criticism by the committee's reports and opposition deputies about the government's banning of public meetings, Sharif Zeid said the government bans only meetings which "violate the law and harm national security."

The committee's report also urged the government to ensure the neutrality of its

departments in public elections and to make sure that the security apparatus does not violate the human rights of citizens.

Those responsible for human rights violations should be held accountable in accordance with the law, the opposition deputies demanded.

But centrist deputies stood by the government in arguing that illegal acts should be stopped and violators of the law should be stopped from harming the country and its interests.

Those deputies said that democracy "should not be exploited to achieve illegal objectives" adding that all citizens enjoy freedoms within the limits of the law.

The centrist deputies said there were some "insignificant" excesses in the government's acts but contended

that these acts do not threaten democracy and praise the security forces for protecting the interests of the Kingdom.

Sunday's session witnessed the strongest confrontation between the government and the opposition deputies in the extraordinary session during which the House passed the controversial legislation ending the economic and trade boycott of Israel. Law makers also endorsed a new investment and income tax laws that are geared at making the economic reforms necessary to create a more favourable investment environment in the Kingdom.

The House should reconvene in an ordinary session in October but observers expect the session to be postponed for a period of two months.

Strife-ridden and poverty-stricken Gazans seek some psychic relief

By Pamela Druckerman
Reuters

GAZA — In the basement of a bare building in Gaza City, women in long veils huddle around the tiny figure of Um Mohammad, hunched on the dirt floor.

When the shrivelled mystic looks up, there is fire in her eyes.

"Swallow your tongues," she hisses in Arabic to the women begging to be next in line for her psychic reading. "Move away, wait your turn."

Every morning, hundreds of Gazans crowd into Um Mohammad's makeshift office in a Gaza slum seeking cures for laziness, depression, spoiled marriages, failed businesses or just plain bad luck.

Like other psychic seers in the strife-ridden Gaza Strip, the shrouded woman waving her arms and muttering Koranic verses offers a semblance of order in an uncertain world.

"They come to get recovered," explains Abdullah, Mohammad's cousin and

informal bookkeepers who takes the five-shekel (\$1.66) fee from visitors and writes up spirit papers inscribed with prophesies and Koranic verses that they carry away.

"Some people are inhabited by evil devils," says Abdullah. "We recover and reveal the secret."

Although her specialty is exorcisms, many of Um Mohammad's remedies smack of textbook psychology.

The wife of a man who had just fled to the West Bank with his lover listened intently as Um Mohammad spoke woman-to-woman.

"Live your own life and forget all about this man," advised the seer, rolling up a note inscribed with Koranic verses and pressing it to her forehead. "I'm telling you, he is a womaniser, there is something bad in his mind."

Afterwards, a woman complaining of laziness leaned her head against the wall to hear the mystic's singular solution.

"If you eat an egg, just

eat one egg. If you have a banana, just have one banana," she said.

There are just two hospitals and a smattering of psychological care for Gaza's one million Palestinian residents. The herbal remedies and mystic wisdom of seers like Um Mohammad are for some their only "medical" treatment.

With unemployment at around 50 per cent and extended families living crammed into overcrowded neighbourhoods, many say the stress of daily living — particularly under Israeli occupation, which ended last year — requires a supernatural solution.

"The Palestinian people were like being in jail, they had nothing to do, nothing to think about so they were thinking about each other," said another client, Nawal, who had come seeking spouses for her unmarried siblings.

"Everybody talks about each other, there's no independence," said Nawal, 35, who asked that her last

name not be used. "Watching each other creates doubt and suspicion, and creates problems to be dealt with here."

For Gaza's influential Muslim hierarchy, the psychics are a threat to religious authority.

"I challenge all the fortune tellers, whether they are male or female, to know 50 verses of the Koran by heart," said Mufti Abdul Karim Al Kahlout, Gaza's chief Muslim leader.

"A fortune teller has no place to interfere," he said. "The Muslim scientists said that going and believing in such fortune tellers, or in the ability of the devils to know the future, is a religious crime."

But Mr. Kahlout said he recognised that despite the onset of Palestinian autonomy, years of political strife had left Gazans with some existential voids which the psychics were trying to fill.

"Palestinians feel the basics of life were missed or were lost," he said. "What is left for the Palestinians to hope for?"

Sharif Zeid rejects deputies' allegations

(Continued from page 1)

to differentiate between false rumours and truth.

"But when matters come to a head, and this seldom happens, the violators are referred to the judiciary and this is the most ideal democratic method in handling violations or crimes," he added.

"It is regrettable that those who day and night call for democracy themselves consider resorting to the judiciary as an offence whereas the government does not consider the matter so whenever citizens take the government to court," he added. "Indeed it is ideal to resort to court and to the right responsible authority for the sake of ensuring the right application of the law."

Voicing appreciation of a clause in the committee's report which stressed that freedom does not mean chaos and confusion and condemned all unconstitutional acts and illegal actions, Sharif Zeid said that the govern-

ment could by no means condone any illegal actions, whether committed by an ordinary citizen or an official.

He said it was unfortunate that some deputies tend to level accusations at random, condemning officials before a court ruling or verdict has been passed.

Urging the deputies and the citizens to resort to democratic means while dealing with all issues, Sharif Zeid said that all citizens are responsible for democracy.

"Sedition and dissension can harm to all people," he said.

With reference to the question of passports about which the committee report and the deputies made remarks, the prime minister made it clear that it is the right of every citizen to Jordanian nationality and any injustice done in this matter should be referred to the judiciary, especially in cases where passports have been withdrawn without legal justification.

"To raise the subject on different occasions and various forums will harm

national unity and cause a social imbalance that could shake the foundation of the nation," said the prime minister.

"Any person who feels he suffered injustice should resort to the Inspection and Control Bureau and if he is unsatisfied he should resort to court," he added.

"Nationality is a sensitive subject, and the government refuses to see this question subjected to debate because every citizen has a constitutional right. The Constitution and laws protect these rights," said Sharif Zeid, adding that Jordan has opened the door for all Arabs and Muslims as a safe haven in line with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

The prime minister announced that he had instructed the concerned authorities to refrain from arresting any person except upon an order from the public prosecutor and that all the provisions of the law should be implemented in terms for

releasing detainees or referring them to court.

Referring to public meetings, he said the government believes in the freedom of meetings which are legally held and in accordance with rules. The government will not stop any meetings except those which violate the law and harm national security in conformity with the committee's recommendation, he said.

As to the case of the Muta University — involving a plot against the life of His Majesty the King — the government is conducting a full examination of the moral and material rights of the various parties involved, Sharif Zeid said.

The prime minister called on the deputies to promote cooperation with the government.

"The process of construction is hard and arduous, requiring cooperation from all so that Jordan can become a model of democracy," he said.

Crown Prince outlines Jordan's vision

(Continued from page 1)

and North Africa summit to be held in Amman next month will reflect "a qualitative change from government-inspired and government-led approaches to institution-building."

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's address:

"For all those who will ask, where is all of this achieving, one of the answers that comes to mind is very clearly the rift. The European Union is seeking to establish a free trade area in the context of the Mediterranean. Then we have to be able to relate to this new development. If East Asia is looking to the Middle East as a half-way house between East and West, then we have to be able to relate to that development in the context of opening Jordan to the numerous incentives..."

"In the context of intellectual property, in the context of trade marks, in the context of customs union any number of incentives are clearly manifest to those who seek to establish the creation of this energy of economic zones. When I speak of economic zones let me not omit reference to NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Area, and the concept of relating this part of the world, and by extension, the region with which we deal to a semibiosphere with the American hemisphere."

"For peacebuilding to succeed it must be institutionalised. Democracy, respect for human rights, greater participation by people in peacebuilding is offset by the reality of the existence of what I shouldn't describe on such a sunny morning as parallel economy — parallel economies of money laundering, of business deals that I have described with some disdain as business as usual. This part of the world deals in hundreds of millions of dollars with the international community. But my concern is not for the aspects of what I have described as the parallel economy digging down our hopes and prayers for institutionalised transparency. My concern is for the possibilities of releasing greater investment of legitimate hot money."

"As far as the level of multilaterals is concerned you're well aware that the peace process, the legitimacy of Madrid, produced five working groups. These working groups included clusters of energy, environment, water, refugees and most important a regional economic development working group. The Middle East North Africa summit faces among other things and within the next few days the various draft proposals..."

"I want to say that in terms of regional financial mechanisms, regional development bank, regional policy consultation — what is important for us effectively is to feel that we are developing a regional integration of a capital market. I don't personally give too much concern to where these regional instruments have based. They could be based on the dark side of the moon for all I care. But what I do concern myself with is the feeling that the objective of regional economic summit, the integration of a capital market, rehabilitation of the Middle East region gathers mechanism. Close coordination is under way with other regional partners, with the Palestinians, with Egypt and with Israel."

"Yes, it is closer with some than it's with others. But I do feel that the concept of developing a complementarity between the oil-producing natural resources-rich region of the area, the Gulf region, and the hinterland of the manpower resource-rich north of the peninsula is feasible."

"The concept should essentially include the qualitatively rich communities of Israel, Palestinians and Jordan."

"Let us hope to the participation at some stage in the long too distant future the Syrians, the Lebanese and the broader concept effectively of cooperation in the Eastern Mediterranean to include Turkey."

"The emerging markets and the contributors from Morocco to Turkey of up to 300 million people present a formidable new reality in an extended Middle East."

"I know sooner or later about one hundred small and medium-sized industrial projects costing \$1.5 million on average are seeking international and regional partners."

"It is my hope that the (first) stage of promoting cooperation, as I described to a visiting group of the Israeli Knesset members quite recently, is the process of getting to know one another through meetings and exchange of information and personal contacts. The second stage, with the limitation of the areas and priorities for joint activities, preparing the ground for this... stage which will consist of joint activities in the areas agreed upon could be taken a way as a possible outline for our shared commitment of the year ahead."

U.S. optimistic of MENA summit success

(Continued from page 12)

leaders were a clear indication of the interest by the public as well as the private sectors in the opportunities available.

Ms. Spero also noted that American investors — with between \$400 billion and \$500 billion worth of funds under their control — were already meeting in Amman, looking at investment possibilities. She was referring to a meeting that began on Saturday under the theme "New Opportunities in Ancient Lands," which grouped about 50 U.S. pension funds.

The very fact that the group was meeting in Amman was another reaffirmation of the interest of the business community, said Ms. Spero, who addressed the gathering Sunday morning.

Ms. Spero rejected reports that an agreement had been reached in secret between Egypt and the United States under which a proposed Mideast development bank, one of several institutions designed to help finance regional economic development, would be based in Egypt.

"No final decision has been taken" on the issue, as late as Friday, when an international task force on the proposal, met in Rome, said Ms. Spero. "The articles of the bank have not been finalised...and it is not known yet who is coming in," she added. The group will meet again in Washington, where a decision will be taken for formal announcement at the Amman conference.

According to Ms. Spero, the final decisions on three regional institutions, including the development bank, a regional business council and a regional tourism council — "that will help transnational tourism" — will be announced at the MENA summit, "a wonderful marketing opportunity for the region."

The American official also played down European reservations over the proposed bank and asserted that as far as she knew the project was going ahead and that the door will be left open for those who did not want to join in the initial stage. As

far as the wealthy Gulf states are concerned, she said, "they haven't said yes, (but) they haven't said no" either.

In opening comments at the press conference, Ms. Spero said: "Peace and security are closer to realisation today than any other time in modern history."

Emphasising that the progress made in the peace process so far "needs to be consolidated and expanded," Ms. Spero said the U.S. was aware that "peace cannot last without concrete benefits that are only possible through increased trade, investment and entrepreneurship."

Ms. Spero highlighted the material and human resources of the MENA region, but said the full potential of these — in addition to "its rich culture and history" and critical transportation routes — could not be realised because of conflicts "as well as statist and protectionist" economic policies.

The concept for the Amman summit, she said, "is private-public partnership," with the private sector providing entrepreneurial talent, investment capital and technical expertise and the government improving the economic environment through "liberalising trade policies, privatising industry and improving the investment climate."

The groundwork for business economic development is being laid through several means, she said. These included setting up the three regional institutions — with public and private sector participation — encouraging regional economies to develop a free market approach to development, deepening contacts between the public and private sectors as well as within the private sector, and preparing actual development projects in the region.

"We expect that there will be an emphasis on projects involving more than one country in the region," said Ms. Spero. However, that does not mean that American or other businessmen may not take an interest in infrastructure projects in Jordan,

but their interest will be contingent on the financial returns of the projects. These could include public utilities owned and operated by the private sector under specific agreements with the government, she said.

The Amman summit, which will be more focused than the 1994 Casablanca summit — where the concept of public-private sector partnership in economic development was first introduced — and will deal in depth with trade and industry, infrastructure and finance and the economic environment.

The summit will offer opportunities for businessmen and government decision-makers to exchange views and experiences, "pursue opportunities and follow-up on deals," said Ms. Spero.

"We in the United States have no illusions that prosperity will come quickly or easily to the region," said Ms. Spero. "The road to economic development is a difficult one. However, the event in Amman will provide opportunities and incentives to start the process."

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(Continued from page 1)

er changes during the night."

NATO and the U.N. had given Bosnia Serbs besieging the capital until 10 p.m. (2000 GMT) on Sunday to show "substantial progress" in pulling out the weapons or face further attacks.

NATO ordered the pause in its air raids on Serb military positions after they promised on Thursday to pull back mortars of 82mm and larger and artillery of 100mm and larger.

NATO jets roared over the Bosnian Serb headquarters at Pale on Sunday morning as a reminder, a Reuters reporter there said.

A Serb convoy of howitzers, mortars, two rocket launchers and six T-65 tanks was withdrawing from Krupac, 12 kilometres south of the city centre.

Mr. Holbrooke said after a Saturday night meeting with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade he had cleared up some confusion over whether 82mm mortars and 100mm artillery were to be included in the withdrawal from the exclusion zone.

Later U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Vernon said in Sarajevo Serbs had orders to include these guns in the pullback.

The Serbs, despite coming under fierce allied bombardment since Aug. 30, had previously refused to budge, fearing the Bosnian government would exploit a pullback to regain land.

There was chaos in Banja Luka as authorities struggled to cope with an influx of tens of thousands of Serb refugees.

Bosnian radio said Bosnian government troops were advancing towards the Serb stronghold. "Our units are advancing with speed and... some of them are already advancing on Banja Luka."

Between 70,000 and 90,000 Serb civilians were estimated to have reached the Banja Luka region, where roads were jammed and relief groups were delivering aid by horseback.

Local Bosnian Serb officials say 100,000 refugees are in or near the city. Pierre Krahenbuhl, an International Red Cross official in the city, put the figure at about 60,000.

"The situation in the city itself is one of complete chaos with cars, tractors and horse carts in every street. All access roads to the city are blocked," said spokesman Mans Nyberg of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Refugees continued to jam roads into the city Sunday, and workers used horses to distribute food among them, the refugee agency said.

(Continued from page 1)

out by joint committees once a deal is signed, Mr. Rabin told his foreign minister, according to the delegate.

Mr. Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani earlier rejected pressure to seal an agreement and warned an autonomy deal could not be reached without an Israeli pledge to evacuate the settlers in the future.

"The Israelis don't understand that we have first to agree on the principle that Hebron is a Palestinian city and not a disputed city. We have to agree for a temporary solution to the settlers and a date for their evacuation," he said.

If an agreement is not reached, further talks will have to be put off until mid-October after a series of Jewish holidays beginning with new year celebrations.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres said earlier they made progress in talks overnight, when Israel presented the Palestinians new proposals on Hebron and other obstacles to a deal.

"New ideas were put on the table. On Hebron we made great progress from our part," Mr. Peres said.

But Mr. Kanafani shot down the Israeli proposals. "I don't see any new practical compromising proposal from the Israelis about Hebron. We must take charge of the city and not just of one building or another," he said.

The other new proposals concerned the 6,000 Palestinian prisoners still held in Israeli jails. Israel's Energy

Minister Gonen Segev said negotiations on control of the West Bank electricity grid "took five steps backward today."

Mr. Kanafani played down hopes of a Washington signing this week.

"We are not going to be hostages of a date. We cannot achieve an agreement in such an atmosphere of pressure because we are talking about the life, future and freedom of people."

A statement issued by the Palestinian self-rule authority indicated the PLO might not attend the Middle East and North African economic summit in Amman next month if "Israeli intransigence shuts the door of peace."

"It is doubtful that Arab parties and regional parties will participate in the Amman economic conference without real progress on the Palestinian track," the authority said.

Some members of the PLO delegation in Tabah have expressed the belief Israel was pushing for a deal before the Jewish holidays beginning next week so that it could go to Amman armed with an accord that would ease economic normalisation with the Arab World.

Saeb Erakat, head of the Palestinian elections committee at the talks, said a breakthrough was made on that issue.

Peres and Arafat have agreed that the number of members of the elected council will be 82 and Israel has accepted to separate the executive authority from the legislative council," he said.

Israel-PLO talks continue

(Continued from page 1)

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Japan seeks stronger role

(Continued from page 1)

during World War II.

The Japanese premier also met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman.

He is to visit Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip on Monday. Tokyo has already provided \$200 million in aid to the Palestinian self-rule authority

and is expected to contribute the same amount over the next two years.

Mr. Murayama is on the fourth leg of a regional tour which has already included Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. He is to travel to Jordan from Gaza on Monday before returning home on Tuesday.

French minister arrives today

(Continued from page 12)

ment between Jordan and France to replace a 1965 accord.

According to the spokesman, the fact that Mr. De Charette chose to visit Egypt and Jordan — the two Arab countries have signed peace agreements with Israel — "is indicative of the importance France attaches to the Middle East peace process."

The minister believes that "he has a lot to learn from the experiences of the two countries, which have greatly contributed to peace in the Middle East," and also wants to hear from the leaders of the two countries their views on other regional issues as well, the spokesman told the Jordan Times.

The situation in Iraq is also expected to be discussed in detail in the wake of the recent developments, including the defection of a high-ranking Iraqi official, Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, to Jordan.

Mr. De Charette or any other members of the delega-

tion accompanying him would not be meeting the defector, nor had they sought such a meeting, said the spokesman.

The delegation will include Dennis Baughard, who now heads the Middle East and North Africa desk at the French foreign ministry, the spokesman of the ministry and other senior ministry officials.

On the new cultural agreement, the embassy spokesman noted that Jordan and France signed their first accord on cooperation in cultural affairs in 1965 when Charles de Gaulle was president of France.

"Since then a lot of things have happened and we need to update the agreement to include more areas of cooperation in the field of culture — archaeology for example," said the spokesman.

Mr. De Charette arrives late Monday and will be the guest of honour at a dinner hosted by Sharif Zeid before launching official talks early Tuesday.

Expulsions not on agenda

(Continued from page 12)

"The UNHCR has made the decision to send emergency aid, particularly medical supplies," Panayotis Moutziz, UNHCR foreign relations head, said.

"We want to start sending assistance immediately. But we are waiting for permission from the Egyptians to cross into no-man's land. So far we have received no response to our request," Mr. Moutziz

said.

Mr. Moutziz, who visited Salloum on Thursday, said the UNHCR requested permission from Egypt to provide aid to the stranded "two weeks ago, but Cairo refused, denying there was a problem at the border."

The UNHCR has contacted Amman to gain permission for the Palestinians to cross Jordanian territory to the West Bank, he said.

Topsy-turvy new World Bank system refigures national wealth

WASHINGTON (AP) — In some ways, it's the world turned upside down: Surinam richer in national wealth per-person than Belgium, Gabon than New Zealand, Botswana than Saudi Arabia.

Developed by the World Bank, a new system of measuring wealth attempts to go beyond traditional gauges like gross national product (GNP). The appraisal includes four ways of assessing societies, only one of which is how much material wealth it produces.

The new method, which bank officials say could take years to perfect, is intended to show how successful a country is in improving the lives of its people. It also is designed to help give a clearer picture of an economy's strengths and weaknesses.

The system is laid out in a World Bank publication re-

leased Sunday called "Monitoring Environmental Progress: A Report on Work in Progress." The report, for the first time, folds a country's people and its natural resources into its overall balance sheet.

The system has produced evidence that almost every country, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, rich or poor, has more wealth in its people's productive ability than in the goods they produce.

Ismail Serageldin, World Bank vice president for environmentally sustainable investment, said the system is far from perfected, "just a start, and... very crude."

But, he said, it "expands the concept of wealth beyond money and investments."

The system weighs what a society earns against what it consumes in natural resources and other considera-

tions that most people would consider intangibles.

Using the traditional measures of wealth, gross national product, Surinam's 1993 per capita share was \$2,800 and Belgium's was \$17,200.

Surinam's wealth under the new measurement system amounts to \$389,000 a person, Belgium's \$384,000.

Saudi Arabia's gross national product was \$194 billion, or \$11,000 per Saudi; Botswana's GNP was \$6 billion, \$4,500 per Botswana.

By the new measure, Botswana's per-capita wealth is \$188,000, Saudi Arabia's \$184,000.

Of the 192 countries ranked, 140 had per-capita wealth of \$100,000 or less. The countries ranged from Ethiopia with \$1,400 to Australia at \$835,000.

The bank issued a disclaimer that said individual coun-

try figures may change slightly as the system is refined. But it expects regional patterns to remain intact.

The system quantifies three types of capital:

— Manmade, the traditional measure of what a country produces plus the roads, water systems, railways and other facilities already in place.

— Natural, the value of land and water and the riches they hold.

— Human, the value of people's ability to produce, how well they're educated, how well they're fed.

In addition, Mr. Serageldin said, bank economists are trying to figure out how to measure social capital, the productive value of families, communities and various social groups that enhance societies.

Higher oil prices slash Omani deficit

MUSCAT (AFP) — Higher oil prices, and production slashed Oman's actual budget deficit by 34.4 per cent in the first seven months of 1995 despite an increase in spending, an official report said Saturday.

The deficit was cut to 108.7 million Omani riyals (\$282.6 million) in 1995 from 156.7 million riyals (\$403.8 million) in the first seven months of 1994, said the report by the state Omani Development Council (ODC).

It put the total actual deficit in 1994 at 484.9 million riyals (\$1.26 billion), far higher than the previously projected shortfall of around \$760 million. The increase was apparently because crude prices hit a five-year low of \$15.5 during that year.

The ODC said the budget deficit was cut in the first seven months of 1995 because of an increase in income to around 1.05 billion riyals (\$2.73 billion) from 922.4 million riyals (\$2.39 billion) in the first seven months of 1994.

Oil revenue grew to 806.2 million riyals (\$2.09 billion) from 672.5 million riyals (\$1.74 billion) in the same period.

Arab Monetary Fund pledges more reform aid for members

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), a regional IMF-style institution, Saturday pledged more loans and technical assistance for member states to help them push ahead with economic reforms.

AMF Chairman Jassim Al Manai said reform programmes being carried out in several Arab countries were the only way to tackle persistent balance of payment deficits and other economic problems.

"The AMF will do its best to attain that objective through preparation and implementation of reform programmes and supporting them with medium-term loans," he told participants in a new training course on reforms.

"There is no doubt such loans will help bridge the financial gap which exists in some member states and ensure the success of reforms," he emphasised.

Officials from central banks, economy, and finance ministries of 16 Arab states are attending the three-week course, the latest in a series of financial and economic educational programmes organised by the Abu Dhabi-based fund as part of its campaign to encourage reform in the region.

The AMF has provided

around \$2.6 billion in soft loans to its 21 member states since it was created by the Arab League in 1976.

The fund, with a capital of around \$1.3 billion, had focused on lending activity to shore up balance of payment gaps. But in recent years, it switched to technical assistance and tied loans to reforms after balance of payment and budget deficits persisted in most members.

Its technical assistance covers training for senior government staff, helping members to upgrade investment laws, and drawing up reform policies.

"Adopting rational financial policies is essential for ensuring the success of reform programmes and consequently achieving concrete results in economic development," said Mr. Manai, a Bahraini who took over the fund last year.

"This underscores the need for expanding the sphere of knowledge for Arab cadres so they will better understand the role of financial policies in the reforms and realise the specified development targets," he added.

Mr. Manai said the AMF would step up activities in 1996, with plans to stage six training courses and seminars on economy and finance.

One of them would be held in Tunisia in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

More than half of the Arab League members have launched reforms to revive their economies which have suffered under long-standing government control, debt, unemployment, inflation, negative growth and financial and trade deficits.

Some of them have reported positive results while others have adopted an optimistic economic outlook. Egypt, Jordan and Morocco, where reforms have gained momentum, have reported faster growth rates, with their 1994 gross domestic product rising by 1.5 per cent, 5.7, and eight per cent respectively.

Saudi Arabia and other major Gulf oil producers, whose coffers were flush with funds in the early 1980s, have also announced ambitious reform programmes to offset a sharp decline in their income.

"We are encouraging all member states to carry out reforms," an AMF source told AFP. "Any country involved in such programmes is not necessarily suffering from serious financial or economic problems but is resorting to such measures to strengthen its economy."

Baghdad cuts list of banned imports

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq, to the delight of its hard-hit traders, has decided to relax its import regime by removing scores of items from its list of banned foreign goods.

The presidential office, in orders carried by Baghdad newspapers Sunday, reduced the list of goods forbidden to be exhibited and imported by traders to 41 from 273.

It has also allowed traders to exhibit, but not import, another list of 162 foreign goods. The list of foreign items permitted for import has swelled to 528 from 258.

Earlier this month, the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) gave traders a month to clear shops of banned items.

It said it would mobilise the army, police and members of the ruling Baath Party for a crackdown on smugglers and traders violating the measure.

But Baghdad traders said the lists the government issued in the official press Sunday meant more or less that business would go on as usual.

"There is more room for imports in the light of the new rules which I expect to have a somewhat stabilising impact on prices and demand," said a trader in Shourja, Baghdad's trading centre.

Iranian ban on cigarette, sweet imports unlikely to affect supply

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A ban on the import of cigarettes and sweets may serve to remind Iranians of the country's economic troubles but is unlikely to disrupt the supply.

The ban, voted in parliament last week, covers chewing gum, cookies, chocolate bars and sodas, which swept onto the Iranian market after the 1980-1988 war against Iraq to strong criticism from Islamic hardliners.

The ruling followed an intense campaign by radicals who are indignant over large shocks of foreign cigarettes as well as American and British chocolate bars in grocery stores at a time when essential goods such as cooking oil, cheese, butter and milk are in short supply.

The decision was also the culmination of a drive launched two years ago to slash imports in a bid to save hard currency to pay back the country's foreign debt of about \$35 billion.

The ban, however, may prove to be largely symbolic as loads of "futile" products are illegally imported or smuggled into the country on a daily basis, mainly from Turkey and Dubai, United Arab Emirates, according to experts.

The central bank, which controls legal imports, and other authorities have "repeatedly stated that imported goods are limited to essential ones," a European economic expert said.

Tough import regulations

have encouraged a lucrative illegal trade in "non-essential" goods, which are often locally produced but do not meet demand or are of inferior quality.

According to official estimates cited in the Tehran Times daily, some \$5.5 billion of goods are illegally imported or smuggled every year into Iran — almost half the figure for legal imports.

"Go to any store and you'll find all sorts of contraband products," MP Ali-Naghi Khamush complained during a parliamentary debate.

The assembly's "decision will have no impact on the country's economy, 40 per cent of which is underground," he lamented to Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, who is in charge of the fight against contraband.

Under pressure from parliament, the government has stepped up a campaign against smuggling and seized goods in the past five months worth five times the amount confiscated during the same period last year.

The intercepted contraband, however, accounts for only 10 per cent of the total goods which illegally find their way into the country, an expert said, basing his estimates on official figures.

"Six months ahead of the legislative elections, parliament appears to be seeking to appease a public growing ever more discontent over the economic situation, which continues to curtail its

purchasing power," a foreign diplomat said.

However, in the absence of a robust tobacco industry in Iran, the ban on foreign cigarettes could make them less affordable to a public strongly fond of smoking.

A pack of Winston and Marlboro sell here for 80 cents and \$1 respectively, which is almost half of a worker's daily salary.

According to official figures, 500 million packs of cigarettes find their way into the country each year.

News of the ban came one day after President Hashemi Rafsanjani struck an optimistic note on the state of the country's economy in a speech to leaders of Friday prayers.

"Despite a hue and cry made by foreign and domestic enemies, the country's foreign exchange reserves are satisfactory," said Mr. Rafsanjani, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

European bank chief says Israel can help rebuild eastern Europe

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel can play a major role in helping rebuild the economies of the former communist lands in central and eastern Europe, the head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has said.

"I want to work more with you," EBRD President Jacques de Larosiere told top Israeli officials and business leaders at a luncheon in Tel Aviv.

He has signed an agreement with the state-owned Israel Foreign Trade Insurance Company aimed at

guaranteeing Israel investment in the region. The bank also undertook to provide Israeli firms with more information on investment possibilities.

Mr. De Larosiere said Israelis are particularly well-suited to the business climate of eastern Europe because many of them have origins in

that area and speak its languages. More than a million Israelis — about one in five — hail from Russia alone.

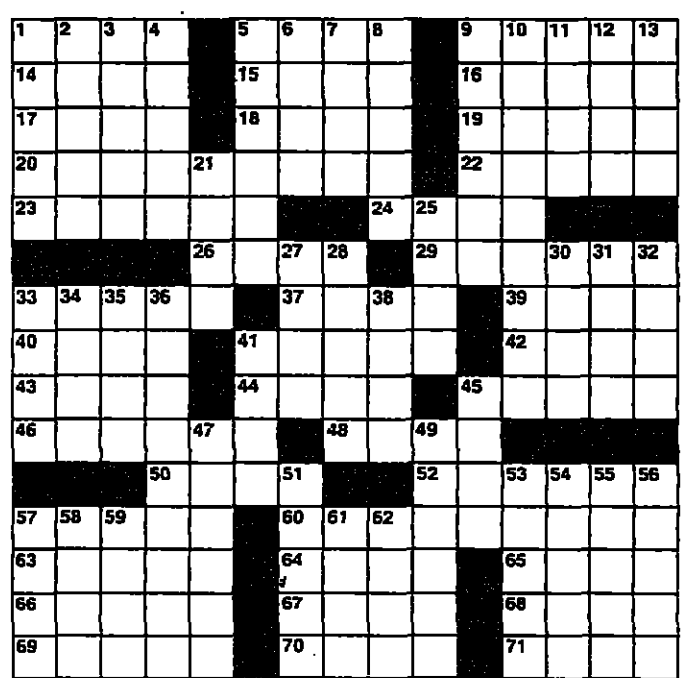
The EBRD was established in 1991, after the fall of communism, to help spur business in eastern Europe. It has a capital of \$10 billion which it is seeking to double in coming years, Mr. De

Larosiere said. The bank both states in the bank, has a relatively high business profile in eastern Europe already. But its involvement in EBRD projects to date has been relatively small.

No figures were immediately available on Israeli trade and investment in eastern Europe.

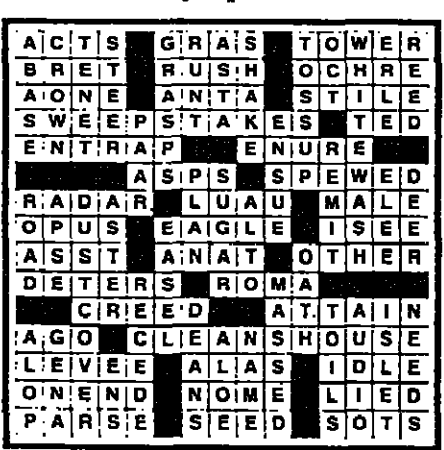
THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger

- ACROSS
- Munch mister
 - Stalk
 - Musical key
 - African plant
 - Weight allowance
 - Family circle member
 - "— the Terrible"
 - Opera highlight
 - Retinue
 - Rabble-rouser
 - Tears
 - Declare
 - Fencer's weapon
 - Certain training sch.
 - Mariner
 - Obelisk
 - Earthenware pot
 - Source of poi
 - Anas
 - European
 - Writer Ambler
 - Despot
 - Christian
 - Andersen
 - Tranquil
 - List extender
 - Unquestionable
 - Take a new sample
 - Walter, the author
 - Dragon
 - Temperament
 - Horse hue
 - Opera prince
 - Name in games
 - Kett of the comics
 - Tribe
 - Skin
 - Church service
 - Congers



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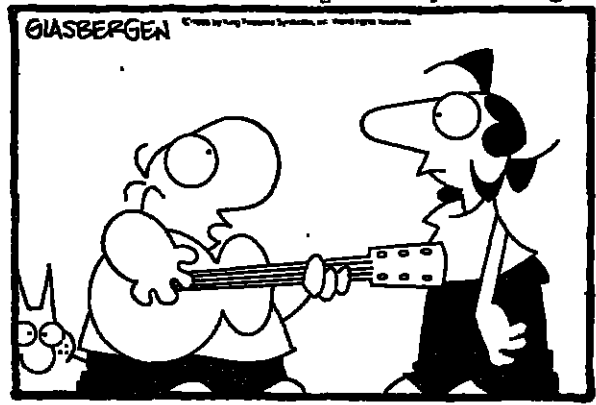
Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- DOWN
- Israeli port
 - Presley
 - Laughs heartily
 - Actress Taylor
 - Commences
 - Chez Scarlett
 - "— go brag!"

- Civil War general
- Main course
- Hot-tempered person
- Thin
- Kind of test
- Some bills
- Wine word
- Certain exam, briefly
- Writer Ephron
- Companionless
- Plain on the moon
- Div's song
- Arrow notch
- Concordes
- Stockings
- Axillary
- Violent outburst
- Endure
- One-name actress
- Skedaddled
- Beaver cousin
- Hippodromes
- Actor Zimbalist
- Instant
- Two under par
- A toast
- Sea swallows
- Food fish
- Attractive
- Bradley or Shari
- Title
- "Peanuts" expletive

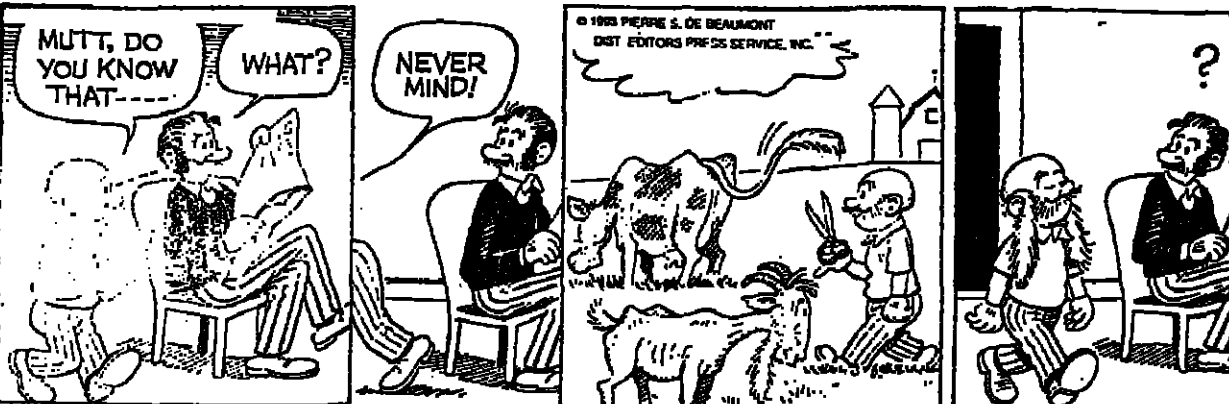
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll-Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day to make your environment more charming and functional and to add greater efficiency to your regular tasks.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make a frontal attack on your career activities and get great results at this time. Also get your entertainments set up for the week.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that you get home conditions nicely improved this evening, after a busy day today at your business.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get in touch with those who are successful and work out a plan with them which can also make you more prosperous.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have the right practical method through which you can become more successful, so start putting it to use today.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If attuned properly you should arise in a more happy frame of mind and can make a fine impression on those who count.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Being with your closest tie and establishing greater harmony between you is wise. Show that you are able to do the right thing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go to see friends you admire today and show that you want to see more of them later tonight. You can enjoy some social pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get deeply involved in your finest activities and you can improve your status with a big-wig more easily.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a day for expansion in business so that you command a greater income later today and have more for the lean times.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Doing what will please the one you love is wise today. Make arrangements for occasional fun later tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get in touch with outsiders today who can be of assistance in gaining your finest aims. Then tonight handle travel matters.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Atlanta venues get mixed reviews

ATLANTA (R) — With an initial round of test events nearing conclusion, Atlanta's organisers received mixed reviews from hundreds of international athletes competing in 15 events this summer.

Since June 22, Atlanta has tested eight of its 1996 Olympic venues, five of them newly built specifically for the Olympics.

The major Olympic venue to open this year, the 15,000-seat aquatic centre, received high marks from swimmers and divers for its facilities and equally high praise from spectators for the facility's design, which allows a sweeping view of the Atlanta skyline through the open sides of the venue.

Athletes also praised the new rowing venue at Lake Lanier, a 38-year-old, man-made lake about 51 miles (82 kilometres) northeast of Atlanta, and the Georgia International Horse Park, about 40 miles (65 kilometres) east of Atlanta in suburban Rockdale County.

But Atlanta officials concede they will need to make major modifications to the yachting venue based in Savannah, Georgia, and two new field hockey stadiums.

During a test event two months ago, yachting competitors complained bitterly about the design of the Savannah venue, which requires sailors and their boats to be towed by motorboat for two to three hours from the main Olympic marina to reach the race course in the Atlantic Ocean.

"The wind and the water are very good. Everything else is awful," said Fred Herein, coach of the French yachting team in a summary echoed virtually unanimously by sailors from 53 countries in the Nationsbank international regatta.

To answer the complaints, officials of the Atlanta

Committee for the Olympic Games said they would install a second marina composed of barges closer to the race course. But the design and capacity of the so-called "Day Marina" still are a matter of debate.

Coaches and players also were harshly critical of the new field hockey stadium tested last month at Clark Atlanta University. Both the Clark facility and a twin field still under construction at nearby Morris Brown College have been designed to be converted later to American football stadiums.

With American football in mind, the artificial turf field hockey pitch was installed over a crowned subsurface — slightly higher in the middle of the field than at each sideline. But the humpbacked design created havoc for field hockey players seeking a true roll on the uneven surface.

After last month's closing-round match in the Atlanta Hockey Challenge Cup, the coach of the losing Spanish women's team, Jose Brasa, said the uneven surface caused the ball to bounce oddly. One of his star players was struck in the face by one such bounce, breaking her cheek bone. The coach and players of the winning Australian women's team here equally critical.

And Els Van Breda Vriesman, secretary general of the International Field Hockey Federation, said: "We are disappointed. We would have thought that the pitch would have been much better."

But the largest overriding problem for Atlanta's Olympic organisers may be the city's notorious summer heat and humidity. Temperatures for several of this summer's events hovered near or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius).

Manchester United, Newcastle stay top

LONDON (Agencies) — Paul Scholes scored two goals as Manchester United cruised to a 3-0 home victory over Bolton Saturday, keeping them tied atop the Premier League with Newcastle — a 3-1 winner at home against Manchester City.

Leeds and Wimbledon — entering the round tied for third behind the leaders — each stumbled to surprising losses.

Leeds lost at home 3-1 to Queens Park Rangers as Daniele Di Chicco scored twice for the winners. Wimbledon fell 2-0 at Aston Villa on goals by Mark Draper and Ian Taylor.

The win moved Aston Villa alone into third place with 13 points. Newcastle and Manchester United have 15. Arsenal and Liverpool each won matches at home to stay close with 12 points in a tie for fourth place.

Ian Wright scored on a penalty in the second half — after missing one in the first — for Arsenal's 1-0 home victory over West Ham. The goal came after West Ham's Julian Dicks was sent off in the 66th minute with his second yellow card.

Liverpool kept defending League champions Blackburn spinning with a 3-0 landslide — all goals coming in the first 30 minutes. Jamie Redknapp scored in the 12th. Robbie Fowler struck in the 22, and Stan Collymore followed up in the 39th.

Blackburn has only four points in six matches and is lodged third from the bottom of the 20-team table.

In other Premier League matches: Chelsea 3, Southampton 0; Middlebrough 2, Coventry 1; Sheffield Wednesday 1, Tottenham 3.

Manchester United and Newcastle have each won five of their first six matches of the season and are moving free as the early class of the league.

Manchester United — playing without injured Andy Cole and a suspended Roy Keane — got two goals from Scholes and the third from Ryan Giggs, playing in only his first start of the season.

Giggs — who missed early games through injury — scored the winning goal last weekend coming off the bench for Manchester United in a 3-2 win at Everton.

Newcastle had few problems with last-place Manchester City. Peter Beardsley put Newcastle up 1-0 in the 17th minute. Seven minutes later Manchester City's Richard Edgill was sent off with his second yellow card, and Newcastle wasn't challenged after that.

Les Ferdinand scored his fifth goal of the season for Newcastle in the 59th to make it 3-0, and Gerry Creaney — in his debut for Manchester City — scored a consolation goal in the 81st minute.

Monaco crash again

Monaco's hangover from their midweek nightmare when they were beaten 3-0 at home by English opponent Leeds United in the UEFA Cup, continued into Saturday when they were beaten by Metz in the League.

The visitors, the only team with Paris St. Germain still unbeaten since the League season got underway, never looked back after Robert Pires beat Porato with a superb lob after half an hour.

Monaco, who lined up with Belgian defender Enzo Scifo, twice hit the woodwork — efforts by Sylvain Legwinski (54) and second-half substitute Mickael Madar (60) just inches wide. But Metz, efficient and full of running, were good value for their win and are now just one point behind PSG who play Montpellier away on Sunday.

Auxerre continued to storm up the standings after their poor start to the season when they beat Lyon 1-0 away thanks to a goal by Bernard Diomede after just five minutes.

Auxerre are provisionally level-pegging in third spot with Guingamp. 3-1 home winners over bottom club Lille, on 16 points — four points behind the leaders.

A bomb scare forced a 15-minute delay to the start of the match between Strasbourg and Nice.

A woman caller rang the Strasbourg authorities at 5.30 p.m. to warn that a bomb would explode in the Meinan stand. She rang a second time and said: "It is very serious, take every precaution."

The police, on full alert after the recent spate of terrorist bombings in France, searched the stadium and found nothing suspicious. Officials decided to open the stadium to the spectators just half an hour before kick-off.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino scored a hat-trick for Olympic Marseille in a 5-0 win over Laval in the second division. Cascarino, 33 and sent off against Caen last month, has now scored eight goals this season.

Atletico keep lead

In Madrid, striker Kiko Narvaez was sent off but Atletico Madrid stayed top of the Spanish League on Saturday with an impressive 2-0 victory at fellow pacesetters Athletic Bilbao.

Rejuvenated Atletico now have a maximum nine points from three matches, three ahead of Bilbao, Espanol and Compostela on six.

Atletico have rarely done well in the intimidating San Mames stadium but this time they took the sting out of the young Bilbao side with confident and composed possession football.

Argentine powerhouse Diego Simeone and elegant Spanish international playmaker Jose Camarero controlled the midfield, carving out several good chances for forwards Kiko and Luboslav Penev.

Bilbao seemed overawed by the occasion, and created only one clear chance in the entire match.

Dortmund hit Stuttgart for 6

In Bonn German champions Borussia Dortmund produced the best possible response to their midweek Champions' League drubbing

by thumping VFB Stuttgart 6-3 in the Bundesliga on Saturday.

Dortmund, in the doldrums since the Juventus defeat, played much of the match with only 10 men because Knut Reinhardt was sent off for a 16th minute foul.

The outcome took Dortmund into third place but still left them seven points behind runaway leaders Bayern Munich, winners of all six games to date.

Bayern had sparked in a 3-2 triumph at Kaiserslautern on Friday.

Brazilian striker Giovane Elber fired Stuttgart ahead with only three minutes gone but Dortmund replied through their own Brazilian import Julio Cesar in the 16th minute and sweeper Matthias Sammer four minutes later.

Even Reinhardt's red card for a crude foul on Andreas Bueck failed to disrupt Borussia's fluid counter-attacks and they went in at halftime 4-1 up with further strikes from Heiko Herrlich and the commanding Andreas Moeller.

A Stefan Reuter penalty and another Moeller goal completed the Dortmund scoring spree in the second period, while Stuttgart hit back with goals from Poland's Radoslaw Gilewicz and Bulgaria's Krasimir Balakov.

Bayer Leverkusen leapt over Borussia Moenchengladbach into second place with a 2-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt, marked by the return of veteran midfielder Bernd Schuster from the substitutes' bench.

Unbeaten Leverkusen's first home win of the season left them six points behind Bayern ahead of next Saturday's top of the table clash in Munich.

Brand New Super Deluxe Villa For Rent

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The Swiss Embassy informs that a SWISS CULTURAL WEEK will take place under the patronage of H.R.H. PRINCE RA'AD BIN ZEID from 19th to 24th September 1995 at the ROYAL CULTURAL CENTRE

Events of the week:

- seven feature films and three documentaries daily at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. see program under "What's going on"

- performance "An evening with Dimitri, the lovable clown" September 20th, at 8 p.m.

- Exhibition "Swiss Photographers from 1840 until today".

- Exhibition "Face to Face with Switzerland".

A Swiss Gourmet Week is also going on at Rozena Restaurant (near 2nd circle).

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMAR HIRSCH

PLAY OR DEFEND?

Both vulnerable, North-South have 60 on score. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 5 5 3
♥ K 7 2
♦ A Q
♣ A 8 5 5 2

EAST
♠ K Q J 10 9 7
♥ A
♦ 10 6 5 2
♣ K 6 3

SOUTH
♠ 8
♥ Q J 10 9 5 3
♦ K 10 7
♣ Q J

The bidding:
NORTH SOUTH WEST NORTH
1♠ Pass Pass Pass
2♠ 3♥ Pass Pass
3♠ 4♥ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♠

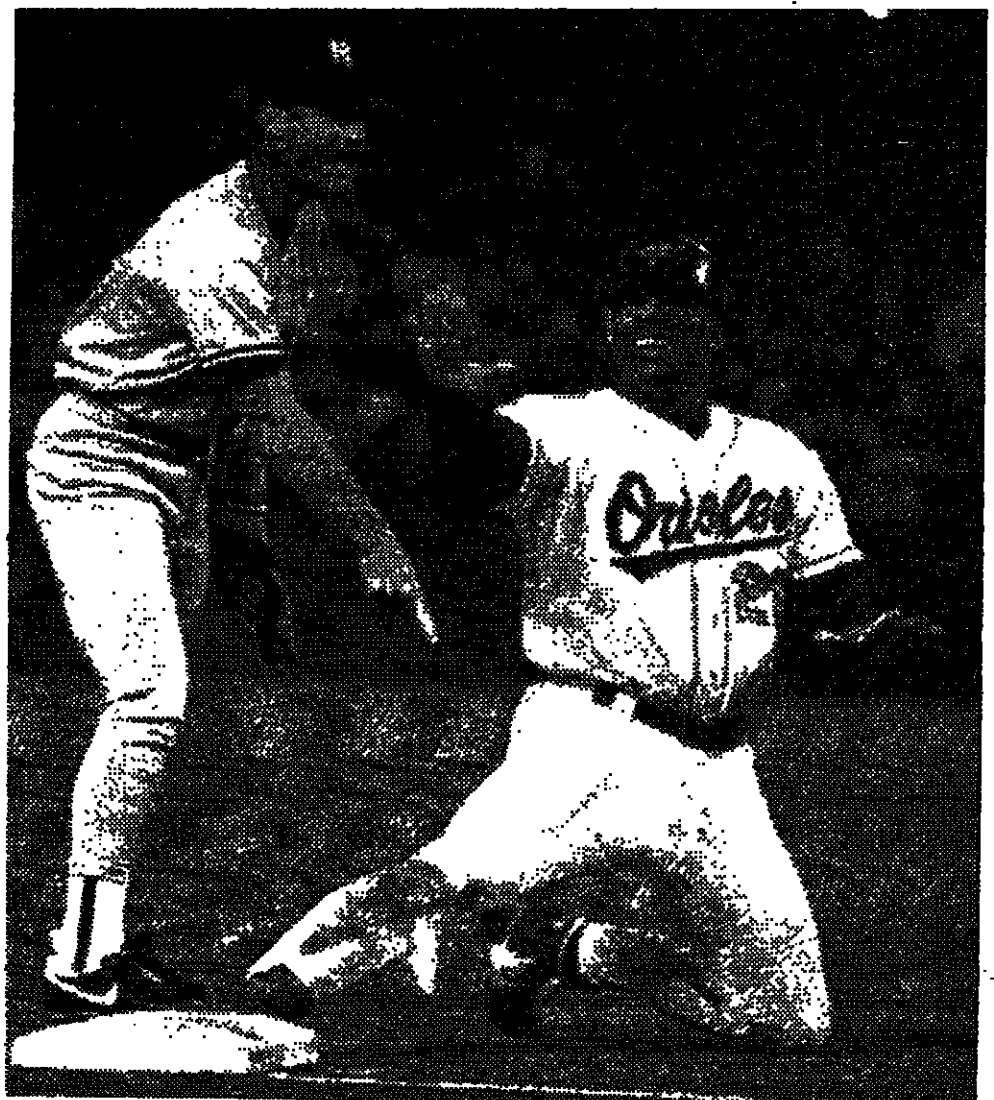
Study the diagram and then decide whether you would rather play or defend a contract of four hearts by South after the defense starts with the ace of spades and another.

West surely owed partner a raise to three spades when East rebid the suit freely over North's balancing double. The final contract, quite likely, would have been the same.

Once West led the ace of spades, the king of clubs becomes marked with East, so it would seem that the contract must be defeated — declarer has two spade losers, one heart and one club. After banking two spade tricks, East continued with a third spade, ruffed high by declarer. Only an endplay could save the contract and, for that to succeed, East had to hold a singleton ace of trumps. Therefore, declarer cashed the ace and queen of diamonds before exiting with a low heart. In with the ace, East was able to exit with a diamond and eventually score the king of clubs for a one-trick set.

Declarer was on the right track. After cashing the ace of diamonds, however, declarer should overtake the queen with the king and ruff the third diamond. Now a trump lead does endplay East, who must either yield a ruff-sluff, allowing declarer to discard a club from hand, or lead a club from the king into declarer's combined tenace.

Despite that, the contract should be defeated. All East has to do after winning the second spade is cash the ace of hearts before leading a third spade. With the chance of an endplay eliminated, the king of clubs will take the setting trick.



Baltimore Orioles' Bobby Bonilla (right) Sig-16. Bonilla went from first to third on a base nals he's safe as New York Yankees third hit by Cal Ripken, and later scored on a basesman Wade Boggs yells at umpire Larry sacrifice fly off the bat of Harold Baines Young (not shown), that he tagged Bonilla out, (Reuters photo) during action in the fourth inning, September

Baseball's Major League results

American League				National League			
Cleveland	6	Boston	5	New York	10	Philadelphia	8
Toronto	5	Minnesota	4 (in 11)	Atlanta	6	Cincinnati	1
Oakland	6	Minnesota	1	Colorado	8	Florida	7
New York	6	Baltimore	5 (in 6)	Pittsburgh	10	San Francisco	2
Seattle	5	Chicago	3	Houston	7	Montreal	4
Texas	7	Detroit	3	St. Louis	5	Los Angeles	4
Kansas City	7	California	6	San Diego	12	Chicago	4

PHILADELPHIA

Melanie Griffith & Ed Harris ... in

MILK MONEY

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

Bruce Willis in Die Hard III

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD

CONCORD "1" Adel Imam & Yusra Birds of the Darkness (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45
CONCORD "2" Striking Distance Shows: 3:30, 5:45, 8:45, 10:45

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Asian Champions' Cup

Ahli defeat Iranian champions in opening match

By Alan Bannan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's basketball champions Ahli Sunday scored a 70-62 win over Iranian champions Asfahan on the opening day of the Sixth Asian Basketball Confederation Cup currently underway in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The win came as a big boost to Ahli who will be facing tough opponents in their upcoming matches. They are grouped with Liaoning of China, Hong Fu of Taiwan and the Philippines.

Group B includes Japan Energy, Kia Motor (South Korea), Sin Kee (Singapore), Punjab (India), and Petronas (Malaysia).

After a one round-robin, the top two teams in each group will meet in the second round. The winners will play for top two places and the losers for third and fourth

while the rest of the teams play for fifth-10th places.

Prior to departure Ahli's Chairman Adnan Nagehaway had voiced hope that the Jordanian champions, the only Arab team in the tournament, will fare well against other Asian champions but he also noted preparations for the tournament did not go according to plan with many players suffering injuries.

Ahli, who are sponsored by Citroen, had also hoped to have a series of training camps in neighbouring countries. However the team had to be content with a series of friendlies against third-placed Al Jazireh and also hosted Iraq's Al Shurti.

Ahli have been the Kingdom's titleholders for the past three consecutive years after ending all-time rival Al Orthodoxy's decade-long domination in 1990. They then lost the title in 1991 but came back to win it in the past seasons.

The team's Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasha brought about Ahli's change of playing tactics to a faster, more modern game that allowed them to upgrade their players' style reinforced by the availability of a strong lineup.

Ahli's lineup includes the team's top stars Marwan Ma'touq, Naser Bushnaq and Yousef Zaghloul. In addition the team includes Ramez Hammoudh, Riyad Ayes, Faisal Nsour, Wisam Nino, Walid Badran, Taimour Shami, Marwan Saeedi, Sami Sadulain and Nihad Madi.

The organisers have allowed each team to register two foreign players in the championship which was revived after three years and will be an annual affair from now on.

Schedule of Ahli's matches

19/9 Ahli-Philippines
20/9 Ahli-Taiwan
21/9 Ahli-China

Eriksson and McRae lead Australian Rally

PERTH (AP) — Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden and Colin McRae of Scotland were tied for the lead Sunday after 20 stages of Rally Australia, sixth round of the world championship.

Eriksson, whose best finish in Australia was second in 1989, held a four-second lead in his Mitsubishi Lancer after 17 stages as overnight leader Juha Kankkunen slipped back to fourth place.

But McRae then recovered ground over three fast, forested sections in the afternoon, taking a share of the lead in his Subaru Impreza.

Both Eriksson and McRae had an elapsed time of 3 hours, 45 minutes, 10 seconds.

McRae, the winner last year, is aiming for his second straight World Championship victory following his win in New Zealand earlier in the season.

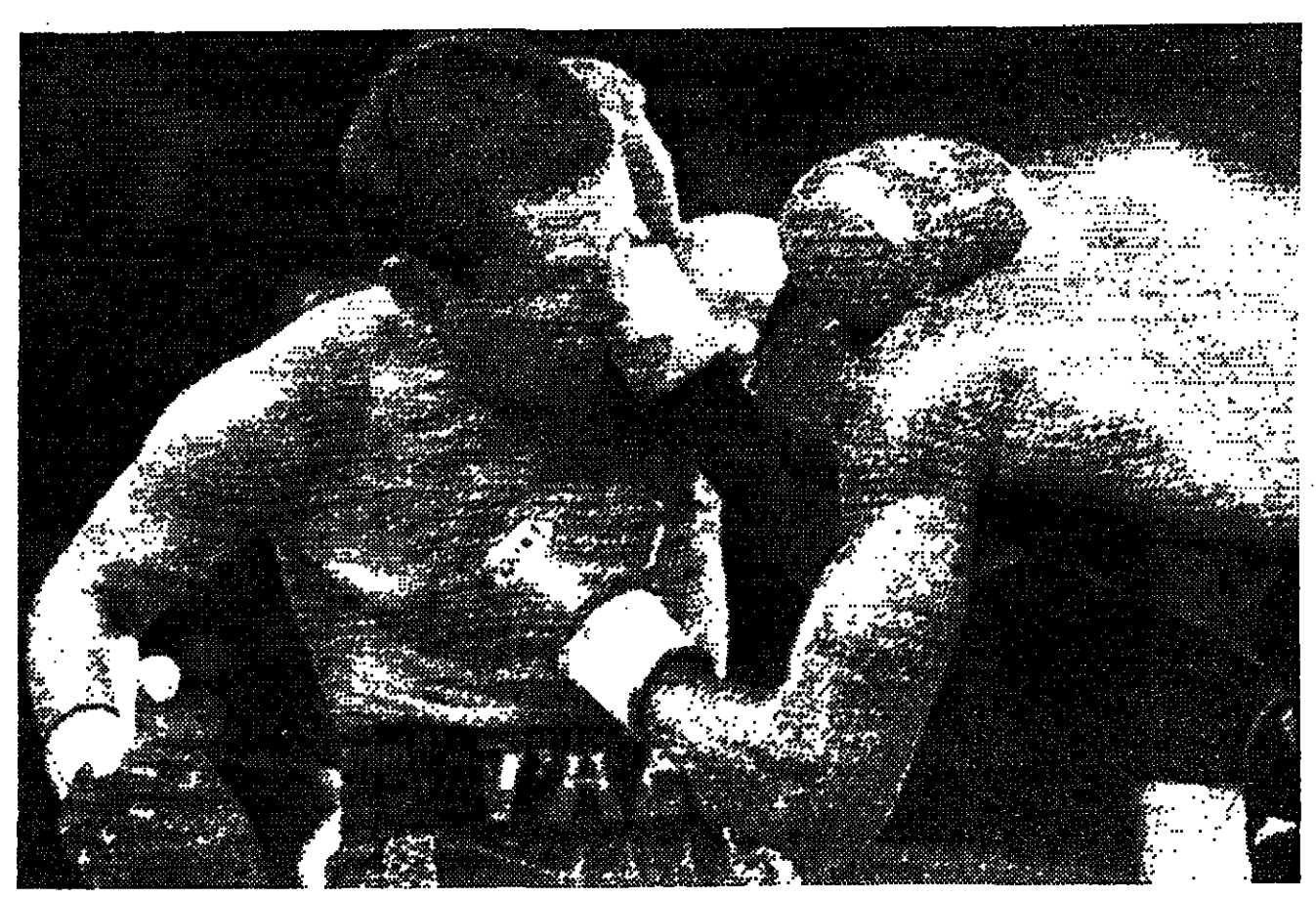
He and Eriksson were being shadowed closely by Eriksson's Mitsubishi teammate Tommi Makinen of Finland, who was 18 second off the pace in his first Rally Australia appearance since 1990.

Kankkunen, a four-time world champion, lost his lead early Sunday and blamed new shock absorbers on his Toyota Celica for some conservative times. Making the problem worse was the fact Kankkunen, as the leading driver, had to deal with the most gravel on the roads.

"It will be very difficult from here," said Kankkunen, a four-time winner of the Australian event who had a time of 3:48.30 after the 20 stages.

A fourth-place finish for Britain scored it 116-115 for Chavez. Judge Anek Hongtongkam of Thailand had it 116-112 and Carol Castellano of the United States had it 117-110.

"I wanted everybody to see, even though they say I'm



WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico (left) mixes it up with David Kamau, of Kenya, during third round action on Saturday, at The Mirage in Las Vegas. Chavez retained the title by decision in the 12 round fight (Reuters photo)

Chavez survives to keep WBC super lightweight title

LAS VEGAS (R) — Julio Cesar Chavez survived a bruising 12-round battle with David Kamau to score a unanimous-decision victory over the Kenyan and retain his World Boxing Council super lightweight crown Saturday.

Fighting with a cut over his left eyelid, a bloody nose and trailing on one scorecard and tied on a second after seven rounds, the Mexican superstar staged a furious comeback to escape with his 96th win in 98 fights before a festive pro-Chavez crowd on Mexican independence day at the Mirage.

Judge Larry O'Connell of Britain scored it 116-115 for Chavez. Judge Anek Hongtongkam of Thailand had it 116-112 and Carol Castellano of the United States had it 117-110.

"I wanted everybody to see, even though they say I'm old and should retire, I can still do it in the ring," said the 33-year-old Chavez. "I'm still Julio Cesar Chavez of old."

A disappointed Kamau was not impressed.

"Maybe he won two rounds at the most," said Kamau, after suffering his first defeat in 27 fights.

A questionable knockdown of Kamau in the eighth round provided Chavez with a crucial 10-8 round on O'Connell's scorecard.

Kamau was counted down by referee Mills Lane when he hit the floor after a Chavez left jab struck him around the left shoulder. The television replays clearly showed that the challenger lost his footing on the wet canvas as he was preparing to throw a counter punch.

"I wasn't hurt," Kamau said. "He pushed me."

Chavez was cut in the left eyelid by an accidental head butt in the closing seconds of the first round. Chavez bitterly complained afterwards that the American referee had missed the infraction.

"What bothered me the most was that the referee did not interfere after the headbutt," said Chavez, who repeatedly wiped away the blood with his gloves.

In the seventh round Chavez had a bloody nose from the barrage of Kamau's punches.

Chavez was unable to attend a post-fight news conference because he was taken to hospital for further examination of the cut over his left eye, his publicist Gladys Rosa said.

Kamau used his four-inch (10 centimetre) height advantage and longer reach to keep Chavez away with a good left jab.

The closing minute of the 11th round featured rousing action as the two exchanged punishing blows. A Chavez straight right buckled the challenger's legs, but Kamau came back with his own flurry of shots.

It was 10 years ago to the week that Chavez, now 36-1-1, won the first of his six world titles in four weight classes when he beat Mario Martinez for the WBC super featherweight crown. Chavez went on to win titles in the lightweight, super lightweight and junior welterweight divisions.

Earlier this week, Chavez, citing exhaustion and an assortment of nagging injuries had retreated from his goal of winning 100 fights to simply try to fight 100 times before considering retiring.

Fight number 99 is scheduled against fellow Mexican champion, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, the undefeated WBC lightweight champion.

Records tumble as South Africa poses first challenge

HARARE (Agencies) — African swimming records tumbled as South Africa, back in the continent's sporting fold, challenged North Africa's long domination of the sport.

But a doping scandal cast a shadow over South Africa's glory, with one of the team's track and field stars testing positive for a banned substance.

South Africans broke three All Africa Games records and one African record in swimming Saturday. Egypt broke two games records and Algeria and Zimbabwe broke one apiece.

Officials said competition at Zimbabwe's new \$10 million aquatic complex at Mutema, 25 kilometres (16 miles) south of Harare, was heightened by the participation for the first time of South Africa.

The South Africans, able to compete after all-race elections ended apartheid in their country last year, spurred on the Algerians and Egyptians.

Herman Louw of South Africa finished the men's 100-metre breast stroke 1:04.20, just beating the standing African record by an Algerian of 1:04.41 and the previous games record of 1:04.95.

South Africa also took gold medals in the 400-metre women's medley and the 4-by-200 metre relay. Egypt won gold in the 100-metre women's freestyle. Algeria's Salem Iles set a new games record in the 200-metre men's freestyle to win a gold.

Swimming is not popular in most African countries, but it has been promoted in comparatively wealthy South Africa and Arab states.

The wealth that can nurture champions is concentrated among South Africa's white minority, and that was reflected in the fact that all the country's swimmers and most of its other athletes at the games were white.

sing sprint star Frankie Fredericks would compete in the 200 metres Saturday all came to nothing.

Officials announced on Friday that the Namibian runner would fly in from a meeting in Tokyo where he ran 20.11 in losing to world champion Michael Johnson on Friday evening.

They even set the heats back to Saturday afternoon to give Fredericks time to recover from his gruelling flight.

But the heats came and went without Fredericks, who won both the 100m and 200m All Africa Games titles in Cairo four years ago.

Fredericks has insisted for several months that he was not been to come here but Games' organisers claimed they had been in touch with him this week and had convinced him to run.

Even Fredericks' Namibian teammates were in the dark.

"The whole team would really be boosted if Fredericks arrived but I have not heard anything," said fellow 200m sprinter Mberuana Zepee.

Games' officials are still smarting that nearly all the stars of African athletics have given the games a miss — reducing the event to almost a second class meeting.

Those missing include Ethiopia's world 5,000m champion Haile Gebrselassie.

sic, Algeria's world 1,500m champion Noureddine Morceli, both winners in the Tokyo meet, women's 1,500m Olympic and world champion Hassiba Boulmerka and women's Olympic 10,000m champion Deratu Tulu of Ethiopia.

S. African athlete tests positive

A champion long jumper from South Africa was the first athlete to test positive for a banned substance at the All Africa Games Saturday, but said she had taken a stimulant unwittingly.

Karen Botha, a veteran international competitor, said she had not realised a painkiller prescribed by her personal doctor contained a banned stimulant — dexpropoxyphene.

"I don't feel ashamed, I don't feel afraid, I don't feel embarrassed. I took those (pills) quite innocently," Botha said at a news conference.

Auriol went into Rally Australia with a one-point lead over Kankkunen and Sainz in the World Championship standings.

Zimbabwe refuse to play in old kit

The Zimbabwean men's volleyball team refused to play their first match in the All Africa Games on Saturday because they were ashamed to appear in old kit, the state news agency Ziara said.

The match in Bulawayo was forfeited and their opponents Cameroon were awarded three points.

"I appealed to them without success," said the treasurer of the Zimbabwe Volleyball Association, Love-More Moyo. "We can only push them to a certain extent."

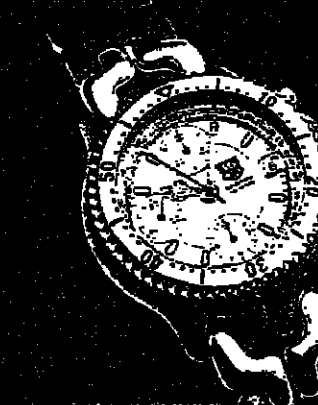
Noyo acknowledged the team needed new kit. He said it was not clear if they would play their other scheduled matches.

Ziara quoted Cameroon's head coach, Charles Ngandana, as saying the Zimbabweans were using the kit issue as a pretext.

"Probably they are a weak side and realised we were going to trounce them," he said.


Fredericks misses games

Promises from All Africa Games organisers that mis-





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U.S. confident MENA conference will launch economic development

Spero says peace not yet perfect, but there is international interest in region

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States is confident that next month's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in Amman will be the start of a tangible process that leads to the economic development of the region, with the public and private sectors joining a "partnership" for progress, a senior American official said Sunday.

Joan Spero, under-secretary of state for economic and business affairs, also said that despite the spurts of militant violence in the occupied territories and South Lebanon and the deadlock in Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks of peace talks, there were clear indications of interest among business leaders to take advantage of the business opportunities available in the region after the Palestinians and Jordan made peace with Israel.

Ms. Spero was addressing a press conference after talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the ministers of finance, planning and trade and industry on issues related to the Oct. 29-31 MENA summit.



Joan Spero

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the Crown Prince, in his meeting with Ms. Spero, expressed hope that the summit would be a forum for exchange of views on investments and efforts to rehabilitate the economies of the Middle East.

General preparations for the summit, projects to be submitted at the forum and U.S.-Jordanian cooperation to ensure the success of the conference were the focus of the discussions that Sharif Zeid held with Ms. Spero, Petra said.

The American official, who described her talks here as a periodic exchange of views, told the press confer-

ence peace and stability were indeed among the key factors that influenced investment decisions, but that what has been achieved so far in the four-year-old Arab-Israeli peace process — despite its hiccups — was "impressive."

"I think that it is no doubt that one of the deterrents historically to investment in the region is instability and conflict," in addition to state-dominated economies, she said.

However, although a comprehensive peace has not been achieved in the region as a result of the agreements between the Palestinians and Israel and the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, "there is more receptivity and more interest by business executives" in the region.

"I don't think that the Amman summit could have taken place before the peace process had reached some fruition between Israel and the Palestinians, and between Israel and Jordan," she said.

"It is not perfect...it does not mean comprehensive peace in the region...but it is a very good start," said Ms. Spero, adding that the expected level of participation at the summit by government and international business

(Continued on page 7)

U.N. official in Iraq to verify germ data

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A senior United Nations arms official arrived in Baghdad on Sunday for talks to clear doubts about Iraq's past germ warfare programme.

"There are some uncertainties left. We have to verify the information provided to us...most important is to verify the destruction of all equipments and agents," Charles Duelfer, deputy chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), told reporters on arrival.

Iraq made startling revelations about its weapons programmes last month, particularly about its biological weapons. It admitted for the first time to producing 200 biological warheads and additional agents beyond what was previously disclosed.

U.N. experts are analysing enormous amounts of documents provided by Iraq following the defection to Jordan last month of Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel, the brain behind Baghdad's military industries.

Iraq said it destroyed all its biological weapons and related equipment voluntarily prior to the outbreak of the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait.

Mr. Duelfer said the aim of his four-day visit was to try to make some progress before UNSCOM submitted its six-monthly report to the U.N. Security Council on Oct. 11.

But he said he did not believe Iraq would get a clean bill of health on the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction in October as the

information it had newly provided — about 650,000 pages — needed time and effort to analyse.

"There is enormous concern" that equipment for making biological weapons is destroyed, Mr. Duelfer said. "There are some uncertainties to lift," he told reporters.

He said he would also discuss Iraq's nuclear and chemical weapons programmes as well as its long-range ballistic missiles — all banned by U.N. resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

"We will cover all but we will focus on the biological area," he said.

Mr. Duelfer said he would begin his talks later Sunday with General Amer Rasheed, Iraq's oil minister who has headed the Military Industrial Organisation since Gen. Kamel defected.

Baghdad must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction before the United Nations will ease the sanctions imposed on Iraq after it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The chairman of UNSCOM, Rolf Ekeus, is due to visit Baghdad in about two weeks, Mr. Duelfer said.

At a regular review in September, the Security Council kept the sanctions after Iraq admitted having developed a powerful germ warfare programme, including loading 160 bombs and 25 warheads with biological agents in December 1990.

Baghdad publishes defector's letter to Saddam

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq published a letter on Sunday which it said was written by defector General Hussein Kamel, showing him up as a poorly-educated scoundrel.

Baghdad's state-controlled newspapers ran a copy of a letter which they said showed there was no truth to General Kamel's assertion since his defection last month that he had opposed government policy when in Iraq.

The letter, addressed to father-in-law President Saddam Hussein, was dated Oct. 13, 1994 when Iraq withdrew the forces it massed close to Kuwait's borders after a huge counter-build-up by United States and its allies in the region.

"Dear sir. It is not important that the sanctions be lifted. No by God. What is important is to see the world mentioning your name every day," Gen. Hussein Kamel said in the letter.

"Our hope is being materialised. May God be with you sir and our souls are nothing before your excellency," the letter said.

Read in full on television, the letter is the latest attempt by Iraq to discredit Gen. Kamel Hussein who has knowledge of the country's secret weapons programme.

"Any neutral observer does not need further evidence to understand his (Kamel's) reality as a charlatan and not as he tried to depict himself as if he represented a different lobby other than that of the state, the regime and its leadership," a television commentator said.

The hand-written letter shows a low standard of education as it had several grammatical and spelling mistakes.

Gen. Kamel, who quickly rose to the most senior position in Iraq after President Saddam, was a dropout with only a primary school education.

The mastermind of Iraq's military and civilian industries, he and his brother Saddam Kamel, President Saddam's chief bodyguard, fled Iraq accompanied by their wives who are daughters of President Saddam.

"My kisses to you sir. We are your small children under alert all the time and for anything... my dear sir, my great sir," said the letter.

"Oh dear sir, you are our great honour and glory. You are the tent whose shade is the only thing we have," the letter said.



ENVOYS SWORN IN: Five Jordanian ambassadors Sunday took the oath of office before His Majesty King Hussein at a special ceremony held at the Royal Court. The Ambassadors are Mohammad Kheir Mugbel, Jordan's ambassador to Algeria, Mohammad Amin Shalhinkri, ambassador to Sudan, Mohammad Ali Qudrah, ambassador to Oman, Abdullah

Madadha, permanent representative to the United Nations European Headquarters in Geneva, Ahmad Mubaiden, ambassador to Libya and Samir Masarweh, ambassador to Italy. The ceremony was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti.

PLO does not want Libyan expulsions on league agenda

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said on Sunday it does not want the issue of Libyan expulsions of Palestinians put before the Arab League in its session this week.

"We prefer to have this problem solved through direct diplomatic contacts rather than in noisy meetings," the PLO's representative to the league, Mohammad Sobeh, told AFP.

Mr. Sobeh said the issue of Palestinian refugees in general was permanently on the league agenda and would be discussed at the 104th session of the league council of foreign ministers, to be held in Cairo on Wednesday.

"I don't rule out that bi- or trilateral meetings might take place between league officials, Palestinians and Libyans on the sidelines of the session," Mr. Sobeh said.

League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid has invited the head of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) to open the session after a Palestinian request.

Dr. Abdul Meguid's spokesman Talat Hamed said.

After Turkman would "present a full report on the status of UNRWA and of the Palestinian refugees," Mr. Hamed said. UNRWA headquarters in Vienna have not confirmed that Mr. Turkman would attend.

At least 150 Palestinians are stranded on the Libyan-Egyptian border after Tripoli ejected them. An UNRWA official in Cairo said most of them had been living in "appalling conditions" for over two weeks.

UNRWA was waiting for permission from Egyptians to cross into no man's land to provide them food, water and medical aid, the official said.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi began deporting Palestinians in early September in a bid to show up the "failure" of the self-rule deal between Israel and the PLO.

The flow of Palestinians out of Libya has tapered off in the past two days after intense Arab pressure on Tripoli. But Libya has not said it will accept back the deportees.

Egyptian border officials said Jordan has refused entry to 20 Palestinians thrown out of Libya, forcing their return to the Libyan-Egyptian border.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cairo said it was waiting for permission from Egypt to deliver aid to the stranded Palestinians, whom it said remained in "appalling" conditions.

The 20 thrown out of Libya on Friday, crossed Egyptian territory in three minibuses to the Red Sea port of Nuweibeh in order to sail to Jordan, a border offi-

cial told AFP.

Amman refused them entry on Saturday because they held residency papers for the Gaza Strip. Egyptian authorities ordered them to return to Libya, the official said.

In Jordan, officials had no comment on this particular case, but said Amman would not allow Palestinians to enter who did not have Jordanian passports.

The Palestinians went to Cairo, where they appealed to the Palestinian "embassy" to help them gain entry to Gaza or Jordan, the official Egyptian news agency MENA said.

Mr. Sobeh denied that the 20 had been to the bureau but confirmed that they had been expelled by Libya and refused entry to Jordan.

But the border official told AFP that Palestinian officials told the group to return to Libya, saying contacts were being made for their entry.

Minibuses carrying the 20 Palestinians returned to the Salloom border post on Sunday, officials there added.

Meanwhile, soldiers from the Egyptian army began supplying food and water to the Palestinians already caught in no-man's land between Egypt and Libya, another border official said.

Many of the stranded have been camped out on the border for over two weeks.

(Continued on page 7)

French foreign minister arrives today

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette arrives here late Monday on a 24-hour visit for talks on the Middle East peace process, the developments in Iraq and Franco-Jordanian relations, a French embassy spokesman said Sunday.

His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabarti are expected to hold talks with Mr. De Charette.

The spokesman said Mr. De Charette, on his first visit to the Middle East after joining the cabinet formed by President Jacques Chirac in June, will also discuss the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina in former Yugoslavia.

Another key issue for Mr. De Charette's talks here will be French participation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit to be held in Amman Oct. 29-31, the spokesman said.

"The minister will stress the importance with which France sees the summit and will also announce the level of French participation in the summit," said the spokesman.

The talks are also expected to touch on economic cooperation and Jordan's bid to secure debt relief from Western creditors, including France, which holds about \$600 million of the Kingdom's foreign debts. Negotiations are scheduled for later this month on an agreement under which France will offer about \$70 million of the debts for conversion into investments in Jordan under terms favourable to investors.

One of the highlights of the visit of Mr. De Charette, who will arrive from Egypt and will return home Tuesday afternoon after a press conference here, will be the signing of a new cultural agree-

ment.

Mr. Zeroual, a 54-year-old retired general, took up his post in January 1994. He will have to declare whether he is standing by Oct. 2.

The daily La Tribune reported that "there is no longer any doubt" Mr. Zeroual will announce his candidacy after a meeting Tuesday with military chiefs.

A consensus have been achieved — with difficulty according to some — on Liamine Zeroual (standing), it added.

Meanwhile, security forces have dismantled a number of bomb-making networks in Sidi Moussa, where a lorry carrying 500 kilos of explosives was stopped, in Oran in western Algeria and in the fundamentalist Eucalyptus quarter of the capital, according to media reports.

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Public massacre reported in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Fifteen villagers, half of them women and children, had their throats slit by an armed commando in the latest of a series of savage attacks ahead of presidential elections, the daily Al Watan reported Sunday.

The report said other residents were forced to watch the massacre before the guerrillas destroyed part of the village of Boukrane, a reputed fundamentalist stronghold.

An unidentified commando of about 50 men armed with Kalashnikovs, hunting rifles and automatic pistols entered the isolated village near Lakhdaria, 70 kilometres southeast of the capital, late Thursday.

They gathered the villagers together and called out certain names, but when only four of those on their list

appeared, they took revenge on their families instead.

Four children, two under six, and seven women were among the victims killed as the armed men "ordered the other villagers to watch the massacre."

Then they destroyed 10 homes with a bulldozer and set fire to the town hall, shops and vehicles before quitting the village some four hours later.

The attack came amid fundamentalist opposition to presidential elections due on Nov. 16 which the armed Islamic groups have vowed to prevent ever taking place.

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual this weekend denounced their violence as a "vain threat" which would not stop the election going ahead (see page 2).

Algeria has been racked by unrest since 1992 when the military-backed government annulled elections which the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in the continuing bloodshed.

On Saturday Mr. Zeroual signed a decree enabling the some 12.6 million electors to vote and he insisted that the administration would remain neutral.

However, he has still not declared whether he himself will stand. Many say he will do so eventually and if he does, he would be the favourite ahead of the 16 declared candidates so far.

The fact that many opposition parties, including the FIS, have refused to take part will also help him. They have also called on people to

boycott the poll.

Mr. Zeroual, a 54-year-old retired general, took up his post in January 1994. He will have to declare whether he is standing by Oct. 2.

The daily La Tribune reported that "there is no longer any doubt" Mr. Zeroual will announce his candidacy after a meeting Tuesday with military chiefs.

A consensus have been achieved — with difficulty according to some — on Liamine Zeroual (standing), it added.

Meanwhile, security forces have dismantled a number of bomb-making networks in Sidi Moussa, where a lorry carrying 500 kilos of explosives was stopped, in Oran in western Algeria and in the fundamentalist Eucalyptus quarter of the capital, according to media reports.

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Observation post to track China's lake monster

BEIJING (AFP) — The mystery of China's 'Lake Tianchi monster' may soon be solved following construction of an observation post to try to identify the creature. The post, installed jointly by the Lake Monster Research Society and a local television station, will be manned by experienced photographers, said the China Daily. The monster of Lake Tianchi in the Changbai Mountains, Jilin province, northeast China, has been seen dozens of times by local people and tourists since the end of the 19th century. But like the legendary Loch Ness beast in Scotland no-one has been able to firmly identify it. The most recent sighting was by Beijing and Taiwanese tourists who reported seeing its head above water on July 14. Last year it was spotted three times. Witnesses variously described it looking like a dinosaur, a giant buffalo or a huge iron pot. The Lake Monster Research Society has offered 10,000 yuan (\$1,500) to anyone who succeeds in photographing the monster.

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